



St. Cross

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1818 Monterey Boulevard · Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 · 310.376.8989 · www.stcross.org

110th Annual Meeting

January 26, 2020

11:30 a.m.

**Who you are makes
us who we are**

St. Cross Episcopal Church is a dynamic spiritual home,
where all are welcome.

We celebrate, explore, and share God's love
through worship, study, and service.

Current Vestry Members

with the number of years remaining for their term of office

Steve Pringle	2
Ann Rogerson	2
Courtney Shott	2
James Wikkramatilleke	2
Seth Barnes	1
Eileen Mathews	1
Konrad Schreier	1
Marilyn Young	1
Sharon Holmes	0
Troy Konis	0
Kathy Shinkle	0
Jack Tedford	0



Agenda

- Opening Prayer
- Appointment by the Rector of the Clerk of the meeting
- Approval of the Minutes, January 27, 2019
- Report of the Nominating Committee
- Introduction of Nominees
- Nominations from the floor
- Election of Vestry persons, Delegates to Diocesan Convention and Endowment Committee
- Rector's Report
- Recognition of outgoing Vestry Members
- Review of the 2019 Budget and Presentation of 2020 Budget
- Outgoing Sr. Warden's Report
- Parish Reports
- Announcement of 2020 Vestry
- Closing Benediction



Minutes of the 109 Annual Meeting January 27, 2019

The 109th Annual Meeting was called to order at 11:40 am by the Rev. Rachel Nyback. She also gave the opening prayer. Marilyn Young was appointed clerk for the meeting.

Approval of the January 28, 2018 was moved by Carol Reznichuk, Laura Geisel seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee—Vestry

Nominated for three-year terms are Steve Pringle, Ann Rogerson, Courtney Shott and James Wikkramatilleke. As there were no nominations from the floor Patsy Brierley moved and Walt Young seconded to move the slate as stated. The motion was passed unanimously.

Diocesan Convention

Nominations were taken from the floor for delegates. Nominate were Susan Tsutsumi, Larry Johnson, Peter Coote, Walt Young, Marilyn Young, Patsy Brierley. Ballots were cast. Elected: Susan Tsutsumi, Peter Coote, Marilyn Young, Patsy Brierley. Alternates: Larry Johnson and Walt Young.

Endowment Committee

1. Nominated for three-year terms were Eileen Brown and Andrew Rogerson. No nominations from the floor. Carol Reznichuk moved and Larry Johnson seconded the slate. The motion was passed unanimously.

Rector's Report

1. Construction Update:
 - a. The organ console installation is complete. There will be ongoing work with the pipes.
 - b. The brick on the church building had delaminated from each other and the mortar/rebar that was holding the layers together. Screws were inserted around all of the building to secure the two layers of brick. The front façade of the church was in especially poor condition and much of the front façade had to be re-bricked.
 - c. The overages are around \$230,000 as of end of 2019. Some of this will come from the planned contingency, and the rest will come from the Special Repairs Fund (which is the purpose of this fund).
 - d. The other unexpected expense was the flashing on Education Building. Beams that support the roof and the balcony were rotted, as was a major section of the roof over the balcony.
 - e. As we have continued with construction it was clear that we would need new doors for the Education Building with hardware that was new, as well as installing safety handles so children can utilize the door handles. These will be an additional \$40,000 that wasn't in the original budget.
 - f. The built-in cabinets for multi-functional use for Educational Building were under bid. As this is part of the project was a pivotal factor for both Temple Shalom and St. Cross, the Vestry approved to move forward with the planned cabinets, even at the higher cost.
 - g. Windows / Stain glass repair will be taking place shortly and should be finished within a few weeks of starting.
2. Vestry Retreat – February 22-24, 2019 at Mount Calvary Retreat House – Our theme will be to dream big where God is calling us.
3. Reverend Rachel thanked outgoing vestry members Peter Coote, David Charlton, Al Dickinson and Barbara Harris-Holdridge for their dedication and the hard decisions that were made while on the vestry.

Minutes of the 109 Annual Meeting (Continued)

Treasurer's Report

Konrad Schreier shared we ended the year with a surplus of \$16,000 which will be moved to the special repair fund. Expenses for health care have increased but overall expenses are low. Questions/Answers included: Rental fee is established by Property Management Company and market conditions. They are all at market value. Rental Income (Line 26) includes Temple Shalom, 12-step organization and other outside groups that use our space. Request for consideration be given to parishioners when a calendar conflict occurs with tenants. Capital Campaign with elevator will be close to 1.9 Million – 1.5 million raised in donations and \$370,000 is being financed. Operating budget not included in Capital Campaign. Portion of clergy salary is for housing, as set by each individual clergy person. Line 31 is our Diocesan Commitment (12% of our net operating income). \$10,000 Bishops Dinner was to thank retiring Bishop John Bruno and support for Bishop John Taylor. Funds went to mission work and we received a guest speaker at church. This will not be an ongoing contribution.

Closing Prayer: Reverend Dr. Rachel Nyback.

The 109th Annual Meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Young, Clerk

**Reports by
Clergy
and
Senior Warden**

*Our vision is
a community transformed
through the Holy Spirit*

Senior Warden

In an inspiring and invigorating retreat to start the year, the Rev. David Erickson, our former associate, challenged the Vestry to dream BIG dreams about the future of St. Cross, not just for this year but for the coming decades. St. Cross has a history of dreaming and accomplishing big things from 1736 to Belize. The challenge: To discern what the Holy Spirit is calling St. Cross—not its Vestry or its clergy but the entire parish—to dream, to do and to be at this time.

The Vestry's task this year was to involve the entire parish in the dreaming process, to free us all to think BIG, to move from worry and cynicism and to discern the presence of the Holy Spirit. We learned that this was to be no easy task, especially as current church needs also had to be addressed:

- Our building restoration and renovation work was completed. Alas, the education building elevator had to be put on hold when a grant from The Ahmanson Foundation did not come through.
- Sean O'Neal, who built our new organ, joined us as director of music.
- Rev. Robin left us, and we gained Rev. Stephen.
- Plans for the future use of 1736 House were finalized and work begun.
- A successful stewardship campaign was held.
- Doughnuts were provided every Sunday morning.

After months of strategizing, dreaming began in earnest during the weeks leading up to St. Cross Day with open-ended questions on Dream Boards in Parker Hall and an online survey to gather thoughts and to attempt to see where the Spirit is leading St. Cross.

These efforts yielded an abundance of hopes and ideas, among which lies the kernel of St. Cross' next BIG dream. In the coming year, further activities and discussions will narrow the field and focus on opportunities where St. Cross can make a difference.

Thank you to Junior Warden Sharon Holmes, Treasurer Konrad Schreier, Clerk Marilyn Young and Vestry members—Seth Barnes, Troy Konis, Eileen Mathews, Steve Pringle, Ann Rogerson, Courtney Shott, Jack Tedford and James Wikkramatilleke—not only for your dreams but also for your hard work and caring. It has been a pleasure to dream with you.

Thank you also to all St. Cross parishioners for what you do in the parish and the wider community, and to our dedicated staff—Trudy Bush, David Dawson, Judi Kelly, Cameron Johnson, Sean O'Neal and Merrill Whatley—for making things run smoothly.

And, finally, very special thanks to Rev. Rachel, Rev. Nathan, Rev. Stephen and Rev. Patti for continuing to make St. Cross a very special sacred place where God is glorified and Christ's love is shown in work and in play, and where, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we continue to grow and DREAM in our Christian faith.

Kathy Shinkle

Rector Report

“Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable.” ~ Mary Oliver

The theme of this past year was dreaming, and we will continue to dream into the coming year and beyond. Dreaming is part of our Christian tradition (Jacob, Joseph, the other Joseph, the Magi to name a few). It is important to remember that dreaming isn't a strategic plan. It is not a linear process. Dreaming IS a process where we prayerfully keep room in our heart for the unimaginable.

The Vestry met with the Rev. David Erickson for their retreat in February. There we embarked on the process of how as a parish we can dream together to where God is calling us to serve our wider community. We are dreaming for where we can be in relationship with people, not just provide a needed service. We are dreaming for where the gifts and skills of the St. Cross community meet the desires and needs of our wider community.

To that end, the Vestry spent time planning how we can begin this process, realizing it would not be any one activity that would give us a magical, quick answer. They had question boards for six weeks during the summer. They gave out dream rocks to remind our parishioners to dream. They did a survey asking what you the parishioners saw as the greatest needs in our community. In some ways the survey results were scattered, and in other ways there were clear themes around homelessness and refugee needs. The next steps the Vestry is planning is to have established community groups come in and talk to us, so we can discern if/where we can work with existing programs to be of use in the South Bay and beyond. This process is on track, and be on the look out for speaker series in the coming months.

The staff had some changes this year. One was that the staff met on retreat before the Vestry arrived. This was a new cultural shift for us and one appreciated by the staff and the Vestry. We had time to get to know each other in a new setting, we did some goal setting and had bonding time over M&M's. Rev. Robin left us in August to become rector of St. Mary's, Napa, CA. Rev. Stephen was able to overlap with her just a bit as he came on in August. We also hired Sean O'Neal as our organist and music director after a thorough search. We were thankful to James Walker for his interim time with us, and were thrilled that Sean accepted the call to come and work at St. Cross. An added bonus is that Sean built the new organ console, so we will continue to be able to work to improve our organ in the years ahead. The St. Cross Staff, Trudy, Dave, Judi, Nathan, Stephen, Patti, Judi, Cameron, and Merrill form an amazing team. We are fortunate to have such capable, dependable, kind, and fun staff members.

The work from the capital campaign was completed in late winter. As stated in last year's report, the structural repairs far exceeded any contingency we could have imagined. To that end, when the work was completed, we held off on starting on the elevator to the education building. While the Vestry still knows this is a crucial part of our having an accessible campus, welcoming to everyone, we did not want to take on the debt load that the elevator would have cost. We applied for a grant, hoping that would provide half of the cost, but we were not approved for it. This also meant that we held off on any kitchen modifications. Once we have collected all of the monies from the capital campaign AND have paid off the loan (details on the treasurer's report), then the Vestry will circle back and look at what is possible to complete from our original goals.

Rector Report (Continued)

What to do with the 1736 property was an ongoing and lengthy discussion with our property committee (please see their report). After thorough discussions with professionals, it was decided, and the Vestry approved, to rehab the house back into a rental property. As there has been only minor work on the house for over 40 years, it will take a lot of work to get it up to South Bay rental standards. The diocese approved our loan with Farmers and Merchant's bank for the renovation. Hopefully work will have started before you have read this report.

As always I want to thank our Vestry for a year of hard work, of dreaming, of listening, and being present to the call of the Holy Spirit. Thank you especially to Jack Tedford, Sharon Holmes, Troy Konis and Kathy Shinkle for their years of service. Thank you especially to Kathy for serving as Senior Warden one last time. As your leaders, the Vestry and I are continuing to keep our hearts open, listening for God's unimaginable call.

Yours in Christ,
Rachel+

Associate for Pastoral Care

This past year has been filled with relationship building moments. At its heart, pastor care is about building connections: connections with God; connections with other people.

Pastoral Care is highly relationship focused, which is why in my monthly *Crossroads* article, I usually highlight some aspect of how we relate to one another (directly or indirectly).

The beautiful part about the pastoral care team is that it's not a solo activity. So many parishioners of St. Cross to participate in the pastoral care ministries. Without these wonderful and hardworking people of faith, our pastoral activities would be a shadow of their current strength. Sociable Seniors, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, the Listening Hearts group, the Meal Program, Neighbor 2 Neighbor, Family Promise and Laundry Love are each filled with wonderful and gifted people. I am blessed to see God working through so many people!

Here are some highlights from the pastoral care ministry this past year:

Lay Eucharist Visits

The Lay Eucharist team made 64 home visits in 2019 and helped keep over a dozen individuals connected to St. Cross through their visits.

Listening Hearts

This support group continued to go deeper in their sharing of their life and their challenges this past year. The group also discussed *The Human Condition: Contemplation and Transformation* by Thomas Keating, and began discussing *Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of God* by Timothy Keller.

Meal Program

St. Cross parishioners cooked or brought 23 meals to 4 people in need of temporary meals due to illness, medical issues, or other temporary needs in 2019.

Sociable Seniors

Sociable Seniors celebrated its 25th year! Throughout the past year we learned about fraud prevention from the Hermosa PD. We learned the differences between the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the former Hermosa Beach FD. We also played several rounds of BINGO, toured and ate at the San Antonio winery; learned more about the history of St. Cross from the church's History Committee, BBQed in Valley Park, ate at New York Deli, and watched the 1950 movie *Cheaper by the Dozen* and 2018 *I Can Only Imagine* movies.

Rev. Nathan Biornstad

Associate for Christian Formation

My first five months as the Associate for Christian Formation have been a time of learning and connecting. After having spent my first three years of ordained ministry serving a parish in the Chicago area, the move back to California and to a new parish system has enabled me to broaden my understanding of church and to build relationships with the wonderful people of St. Cross.

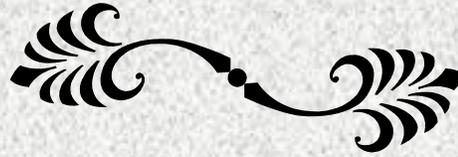
Since arriving in August, I have had the chance to get to know and work with many of you. Coordinating the start of Sunday School at the beginning of the year allowed me to connect with the St. Cross Sunday School Teachers. Their commitment and ability to provide a space for children to experience the power of God's transforming love has been something special to witness. The teachers do a phenomenal job establishing a healthy and loving faith foundation for the young ones in our midst.

That same dedication is true of the folks who lead Adult Education at St. Cross. At the beginning of the program year, we met to plan the forthcoming adult formation offerings. Their willingness to lead and their hunger to dive deeper into topics of faith and spirituality is inspiring.

I have also had the opportunity to participate in and lead diverse projects. I traveled with a group of high school students to El Salvador and saw first-hand their engagement with topics around injustice and faith. In September, the J2A and CNC youth conducted a successful Parking Lot Fundraiser to support their pilgrimage in 2021. In December, the children and youth, along with a whole host of adult volunteers, dedicated their time and talent to put on the remarkable Christmas Pageant. The Community of Open-Hearted Parents (COOP) continues to offer parents and guardians a chance to gather and explore the experience of raising a family in a faithful context.

In addition to all these excellent programs, I have had the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist, preach, and baptize. It has been a joy to serve as one of your priests over these first few months at St. Cross. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with and learn from Rev. Rachel and Rev. Nathan. I look forward to our ministry together as we strive to live into God's mission.

Peace,
Rev. Stephen Smith



Reports by Groups and Guilds

Core Values:

- *Enjoy a casual atmosphere with a traditional setting*
- *Nurture spiritual development of all generations*
- *Express Christ's love through hospitality and play*
- *Glorify God through serving others*
 - *A sacred space to be you*

Acolytes

The acolytes are an important part of the life and ministry of our church. They are part of an old and honored ministry as servants of God and His Church. Our **St Cross acolytes** share a common history, common vestments and general duties with all acolytes throughout the world. The duties that acolytes perform in assisting the priest to prepare the mystery that is the Holy Eucharist are part of almost two thousand years of history.



1 Acolyte Convention – National Cathedral, Washington

The duties of acolytes include: Crucifer, Torch Bearer, Clergy Cross, Gospel Bearer, Server, and Thurifer. Duties are performed primarily on Sundays and High Holy Days (like Christmas), baptisms, weddings and funerals. Our acolytes contribute to the grace, solemnity and pageantry on our liturgical worship.

Membership to the ministry of acolytes is open to all youth of St Cross, from grade 5 (10 to 11 years old) and above. No previous knowledge of the ministry is required but a good attitude and the yearning to serve as leaders in our liturgy is desirable. Two training sessions are offered each year with *ad hoc* teaching as needed throughout the year. It might seem daunting and intimidating (especially the acolyte instructor), but those worries will soon be unfounded and the youth will be executing their duties and increasing their vocabulary with new Greek and Latin derivatives like Chalice, Paten, Ciborium, Lavabo Bowl, pacificator! Importantly, acolytes are encouraged to have fun as they are engaged in service to God.

Acolytes (Continued)

There is also a **Summer Acolyte program** and this occurs when our regular acolytes are on hiatus during the summer break. During this time adults with a desire to serve in this ministry are welcome to sign up to serve. An abbreviated training will be given to all.

This can be a rewarding experience as you serve in a more visible and integral part of the liturgy.



2 Acolytes in prayer before the procession for our Sunday Services

Prospective youth acolytes are encouraged to sign up for this excellent, fun, yet sober ministry by contacting Peter Coote (pac@pacbell.net) or Rev. Stephen Smith (ssmith@stcross.org)

Acolyte Prayer:

O God, you have angels who stand in front of your throne to serve you day and night; I ask you to bless with your Holy Spirit the acolytes of your Church, that serving in front and around your earthly throne they may do so with reverence and true holiness, to the honor and glory of your Name; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter A. Coote
Acolyte Warden

Altar Guild

Not much has changed....we are still here, still doing a prayerful and dedicated job of keeping our church looking lovely and functioning well for all of our services.

When you come to St. Cross you might notice the flowers, or the beautiful embroidered paraments (hangings) and clergy vestments. Or maybe the polished brass candles draw your attention, or the sanctuary lamps – the red, blue or white candles hanging near the altars or in the back of the chapel.

It isn't obvious to everyone who attends our church, but the Altar Guild is responsible for all of these things. We maintain and prepare the traditional sacred items used in worship at Eucharist, baptisms, funerals, and weddings. We beautify our church in a traditional manner according to the colors (green, blue/purple, red or white) and seasons of the liturgical calendar. It is our privilege to provide decorations for the very important Easter and Christmas celebrations.

Each Saturday a team of 5 – 6 people sets the 'table' for Eucharist for 2 Sunday services and one on Wednesday evening. We are responsible for helping to maintain the traditions of the Episcopal church while also making our worship inviting to those unfamiliar with them. We do this with feelings of reverence and joy.

In addition to our weekly service, we hold 2 semi-annual meetings and 2 'cleaning' days prior to Easter and Christmas, where we tidy the church, cleaning, polishing and generally making our space look its very best.

We set out the sacred vessels for the bread and wine, fresh linens, flowers, candles, and vestments according to the liturgical calendar. Altar Guild members attend both Sunday and Wednesday services, assisting with Eucharist supplies as needed. Afterward, they clean the vessels, take home linens for hand laundering, and carefully store the vestments.

Each week, Judy Soper, Katherine Crockett, Sarah Ferris and Mary Malone create small bouquets from the previous Sunday's altar flowers. From March to October 2019, 106 bouquets have been delivered to members and friends and 105 bouquets have been created for the church spaces. Other members, talented with sewing skills, mend our linens and vestments and help create beautiful new ones.

While all the sacred objects seem to magically appear, our able supplies chair, Susan Tsutsumi, keeps us supplied with wine, candles and candle oil, palms and other items necessary to fulfill our mission.

In 2019 we were privileged to serve families at funeral/memorial services and weddings – the most notable was that of Rev. Nathan Biorstad and Erolde Woo. Marge Lyons, our wedding directress always does a fantastic job of shepherding the parties through the event.

2019 Altar Guild members: Donna Cheslick, Laurie Dodson, Betty Farrand, Debora Fisher, Bea Floyd, Laura Geisel, Kathy Gonzalez, Virginia Green, Barbara Harris-Holdrege, Sharon Isaac, Ruth Krusic, Kim Larsen, Diane Loughbom, Marge Lyons, Bonnie McNaughton, Lenora Nicholls, Kathi Selindh, Judy Soper, Judy Spragg, Linda Sutherland, Cyd Thornton, Susan Tsutsumi, Patricia Woolley and our newest member, John Graham.. Mary Garrett serves as a substitute when needed.

If this ministry is of interest to you – please contact me! We love new members and I think you will love us as well.

Laura Geisel, Altar Guild Directress

Blood Drive

For many years, St. Cross has partnered with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive once or twice a year. I have been privileged to lead this ministry. The blood drives help replenish shortages of blood in the South Bay community and give our ill or injured neighbors a chance for recovery and improved quality of life.

With regret, I elected not to coordinate a blood drive during 2019 due to personal and work commitments and other scheduling challenges. However, I have begun negotiations with the Red Cross to schedule one in 2020, likely in late Spring.

St. Cross is a community transformed by the Holy Spirit, and by continuing to partner with the Red Cross, we are selflessly giving the gift of life to our local community. The Red Cross counts on healthy people to give an hour of time and one pint of blood to make a difference, and the generosity of our parishioners and neighbors who schedule appointments is a huge contribution to the Beach Cities.

Keeping the blood drives on Sundays encouraged walk-in appointments, and the Bloodmobile's regular presence in front of our church shows our neighbors that our parishioners are embracing our Core Value of serving others by making a positive contribution to the well-being of South Bay residents.

Watch the Crossroads and bulletins for the date of the 2020 drive. I thank all of you donors for your ongoing commitment to support the blood drives. If you have any questions about donating blood or would like to be added to my donation email list please let me know.

Kathy Gonzalez

Building and Grounds

Membership in the Building and Grounds committee (B&G) is an opportunity for parishioners to use their skills and experiences to support Christ's love.

B&G serves St Cross by overseeing much of the necessary work to maintain and repair the Church and parish grounds. The committee also advises on renovation; budgets yearly maintenance expenses and provides expert help to oversee projects and/or renovations.

2019 was a continuation of the Vestry's Capital Improvement planning and implementation. PHASE 1 structural restoration with upgrades to building accessibility, utilities and finishes were largely completed. As future phases are being planned and budgeted, our committee will provide input on facility use and maintenance requirements as needed.

BRUCE DIFLEY has graciously agreed to pilot us through 2020 as our new CHAIR. We look forward to an exciting year.

That being said, we could not have accomplished all we did without the help and wisdom of the following committee members:

Al Dickinson, EMERGENCY PLANNING
Brian Wilcox, PAINTING CONTRACTOR
Paul Geisel, CARPENTRY AND PEST CONTROL
Bill Soper, ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT AND MANAGEMENT
Dave Garrett, GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Lloyd Kirschbaum, LEGAL COUNSEL
Dave Dawson, FACILITIES MANAGER

As ever, thanks go out to all current and past members, and an open invitation is made to all who wish to donate their talents in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Dawson

Chapel Columbarium

In 1993, the chapel of St. Cross received the gift of a 32 niche columbarium, the gift of Sara (Sally) Zana Reznicek, in memory of her late husband, Dr. Cyrus G. Reznicek. Armento Liturgical Arts in Buffalo, New York was chosen to construct the interior. Upon receipt of the internal structures and exterior solid bronze plates, Ralph Colbert began to assemble the niche frames. Upon completion of the framework, Ralph, using his talents as a craftsman, proceeded to finish the exterior in vertical oak paneling. Sally's gift also included the hanging Perpetual Light lamp, a bronze flower urn and the black marble shelf. The columbarium was dedicated on November 30, 1993.

In February, 1994, it was evident the columbarium was indeed wanted by the St. Cross parishioners as only three niches remained of the original 32 spaces. The Alpha and Omega Columbarium of 64 spaces was dedicated by Suffragan Bishop Chester Talton.

In 1998, Ralph again shared his expertise with the St. Cross parishioners by placing The Chi Rho addition, containing 48 niches on the chapel west wall. Ralph then continued by placing another set of 48 niches beneath the stained glass on the chapel north wall. The newest additions to the columbarium were dedicated, which brought the total to 192 columbarium niches.

Out of the 192 niches, 153 have been sold, 4 are reserved and 36 are available for purchase. The committee has been researching an increase in the current price of niches (\$1,550.00) as it is far below comparable rates in the community. More importantly, St. Cross is legally required to have sufficient funds in reserve to rebuild the columbarium or move remains to another location in the event of a natural disaster. St. Cross is also contractually obligated to provide a niche for all who have purchased one but are not yet inurned. The current rate does not allow for sufficient reserves. No increase will be made until the rector and vestry make a determination of what is necessary and the community of St. Cross has been informed of the outcome.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of parishioner Patrick Bridges, the columbarium records have been computerized, insuring past records are accurate and that they remain so into the future. The committee is eternally grateful to Patrick for his excellent work.

We are also deeply grateful for Michael Welch's years of work as Chairperson of this committee. As Mike retires from this ministry, he continues to provide guidance and support to Rev. Patti Angelo and Stephen Miller. David Garrett and Bill Soper also stand ready to assist when called upon. We would also like to acknowledge and thank those who have committed to serve as ushers for funerals: Marilyn Young, Lee Spivey, Judy Soper and Al Dickenson.

In 2019, the following were inurned:

Barbara Davis Moore
Charles Addison Gessler
Margery Miller Hughes
Madelyn Louise Rosen

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Patti Angelo and Stephen Miller
Columbarium Chairs

Christian Formation - Adult Ed

“Adult Ed” is a program at St. Cross for adults of all ages which provides opportunities to explore the Bible, to learn more about our Anglican tradition, and to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a Christian in the world today. Adult Ed takes place each Sunday from 9-9:50 AM in the Guild Room from September through June of each program year.

Both this year and last year, our theme has been “The Way of Love”. In January of 2019, we explored “Prayer” with two presentations on prayer by Eugenie Baumann and one on “The Rule of St. Benedict” by Wanda Arcos and Sister Patricia Sarah. In February, we turned to “Worship” with a presentation on “Everything You wanted to Know about Scripture But Were Afraid to Ask” by The Rev. Bob Cornner, “The Sacraments in Depth”, by Bill Watkins, and “Changes to the Book of Common Prayer” by Randy Kimmler.

In March, our topic was “Bless”. We viewed the film, “Won’t You Be My Neighbor, had presentations on Laundry Love and Habitat for Humanity, and held a panel discussion on blessings. In April, the “Go” month, we studied, “The Episcopal Way”. Our theme for May was “Rest” where The Rev. Nathan Biornstad taught about Sabbath. We closed the program year with a review of the Way of Love by The Rev. Robin Denney and a discussion of the book, “The Beloved”, by Henri Nouwen.

On September 22, 2019, we watched a video of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s “Look to the Rock” sermon. From September 29th through November 17th, we discussed “Being Discipleship” by Rowan Williams. It explores discipleship through the lens of Faith, Hope, Love, Forgiveness, Holiness, Faith in Society and Life in the Spirit. We felt that each of these topics gave us more insights into The Way of Love. On November 24th, we discussed how to “Unplug the Christmas Tree”. In December we had an insightful overview of the Gospel of Matthew which we began using at the start of this liturgical year. Part one was led by The Rev. Nathan Biornstad and Part two by Susan Tucker. On December 22nd we sang our favorite carols and hymns.

Adult Ed supports St. Cross’s mission of being a dynamic spiritual home where all are welcome by creating a sacred space of learning for all. Through our study together we become more aware of God’s presence as we face the challenges of being a Christian in an increasingly secular world. This makes Adult Ed a wonderful place to delve deeper into what means to belong to a Christian community. It is also a place where all opinions are respected and there is no “one-size-fits-all”. Both those who are new to St. Cross and those who have been there a while find something there for them.

As we learn and grow together we feel strengthened in our resolve to live more fully into our Baptismal Covenant of continuing in the Apostles teachings and fellowship. Programs like this can help us to know Christ better and what it means to follow Him. So come. There are no advanced reading requirements. Just bring a cup of coffee and drop by.

The Rev. Stephen Smith, Patsy Brierley, Judy Soper, Susan Tucker and Sister Patricia Sarah

Christian Formation - Children and Youth

The heart of our Christian Formation program for youth and children happens during the 9am hour on Sunday mornings (during the program year: Sept-June). We had 82 children and youth in our Sunday School this year. Events outside the formation hour include outings, trips, and service events.

Nursery Care

Nursery care was provided for babies and children under three, throughout the year on Sundays from 9am to 11:30am. In December, due to requests, the nursery began operating during the 8am service as well.

Godly Play

We had eight teachers volunteering in our two Godly Play classrooms this year, Atrium 1 for three year olds through kindergarten, and Atrium 2, first through third grade. Seven teachers, Rev. Robin and Rev. Nathan participated in a 3-day Godly Play training in October. Godly Play is a program in which children hear bible stories and are encouraged to wonder and ask questions, and then are invited to be creative, using the story figures, art, or play to engage with the stories and their faith.

Kids Next Door

This year our 4th 5th and 6th graders were in the "Kids Next Door" class. Five teachers have volunteered with them this year, using a curriculum called Connect, which encourages children to engage with the bible, ask questions, look for nuances, and express themselves. They also participated in an outing to play mini golf, as a class.

Rite-13

Rite-13 is a two-year long program. 2018 spanned the end of year one, and beginning of year two. So at the close of the year the class included 7th and 8th graders. We have a group of seven volunteer teachers for this class. Rite-13 helps middle schoolers transition to thinking about how their faith can be applied in their lives.

Journey to Adulthood

J2A is a two-year program. 2018 included the end of year one, and beginning of year two for the same class. The J2A are planning their pilgrimage to Scotland for the summer of 2019. We have three experienced volunteer youth leaders who run the J2A program. The J2A curriculum progresses from the Rite 13 curriculum, and focuses on the areas of: Self, Society, Sexuality, Spirituality, and Prayer. The J2A youth and parents staffed two parking lot fundraisers in 2018, to raise money for the J2A pilgrimage.

Confirm not Conform

Confirm not Conform is also in their second year as a class, at the end of 2018. We have three experienced volunteer youth leaders who run this program. CNC exposes our youth to the core faith of the church, as well as other faiths, and encourages them to think deeply about their beliefs and their lives, in preparation for Confirmation in 2019. They are preparing for a mission trip to El Salvador in July 2019. In 2018, they hosted a dinner for the seniors of the parish in June, called "Senior to Senior", with a Western theme.

Christian Formation - Children and Youth (Continued)

Donut Holy Bible Group

The Donut Holy Bible Group provides our high school seniors, as well as the CNC youth, a space to meet, engage with the Gospel lesson for the day, and share in discussion on Sunday mornings. Four experienced youth leaders make this program happen.

Vacation Bible School

This past summer we had 20 adult volunteers, 10 youth volunteers, and 60 children from our congregation and the community participate in Vacation Bible School. The theme was "To Mars and Beyond" and encouraged the children to explore how God's work enables them to do far beyond all they could ask or imagine. There were activities, crafts, songs, dancing, snacks, videos, and bible stories. The children had a wonderful time and came back to present a song for the Beach Mass in July and the blessing of the backpacks in church in September.

Christmas Pageant

Sixty young people and 45 adult volunteers produced a splendid Christmas Pageant this year, following the grand tradition of St. Cross. More than 200 people attended to sing along and to watch the story of Christ's birth unfold.

Thank you to our volunteer Sunday School Teachers and Youth Leaders!

Diane Ballard, Samantha Barnes, Eugenie Baumann, Cecily Bray, Patsy Brierley, Peter Coote, Vicki Fahrenholz, Hayley Hoffman, Kimberly Holmes, Erica Lynett, Kimberly Konis, Mary Malone, Eileen Mathews, Shane Mathews, Bonnie McNaughton, Holly Milburn-Smith, Corinne Sanchez, Anne Tittle, Brett Tittle, and Michelle Weissenberg.

Rev. Stephen Smith

Community Garden

What is really exciting about the St. Cross involvement in the Hermosa Beach Community Garden at South Park is the fun we have doing a good thing for people in need. And, it has become a really terrific outreach to the community of Hermosa Beach!

This year, Sheba, a new community member of our team, planted her first seeds. She then watched as tiny turnip plants came up and grew and grew to be edible super-market-sized turnips that she harvested and sent off to the food bank. She was smiling and tearful as what she had grown was helping someone she didn't even know.

Sheba's turnips were part of the 180 pounds of fresh produce donated to our local food banks by the "20%ers", who are part St. Cross and part community people, in the Hermosa Beach Community Garden. This year we have grown kale, chard, lettuce, beans, peas, squash, peppers, potatoes, tomatoes, strawberries, onions, parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme. One hundred percent of the harvest goes to local food banks and we are one hundred percent happy.

Join us by calling and volunteering your time to St. Cross Community garden.

Judy Soper at 310-941-1143

Mervis Reissig at 310-944-0191

Margy Harrell at 310-372-0571

Connections Coordinator

This past year was my second full year as the St. Cross Connection Coordinator.

From January to December 2019, I contacted 68 individuals or families who signed the Guest Register book with some contact information. They were contacted either by email, personal note, or text. In addition, these visitors were invited to the Connection Cafes (formerly Newcomers' Cafe) held in January, April, July, and October. I helped connect newcomers to the leaders of ministries to which they expressed an interest. Thank you to the ministry leaders who graciously invited and welcomed those who were new to St. Cross.

I assisted in coordinating the Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras party as well as St. Cross' participation in the Hermosa Beach St. Patrick's Day parade. Thank you to all the volunteers for both these events that make the fellowship at St. Cross so special, and who help to make our presence known in the community.

I planned a going away brunch for James Walker, our interim organist and choir director, to thank him for his service to us after the sudden death of John Tveit in November 2018.

I coordinated three Photo Days and emailed and encouraged all St. Cross members to have a picture taken for the St. Cross directory. Many thanks to Dan Wilson, Photographer Extradordinaire!

With my husband Robert, I hosted an El Salvador Send-off party at our home for the St. Cross youth, their parents, and the chaperones who were making the trip this past summer.

With a hearty group of awesome volunteers, the Welcoming Ministry group was formed. From October through December we set up a Welcome Table in the Narthex with information pertinent to those who are visiting. Ushers are able to "hand-off" visitors and newcomers to the smiling face at the Welcome Table and we are there to answer questions as mundane as "where's the restroom", to helping parents navigate Sunday School rooms for their children, or connecting them with a clergy person. In January we will evaluate the effectiveness of our endeavors and plan for some neighborhood outreach at Easter. Please let me know if you have any ideas for welcoming new people to St. Cross, or if you'd like to be a part of our ministry.

With the help of Ann Rogerson and Cecily Bray, I planned and hosted a joyful wedding shower in Parker Hall for Rev. Nathan and Erol Woo.

I continue to feel blessed to be part of a community that is doing God's work in the world. I appreciate the support of the Vestry, clergy, and all the volunteers that help make a visit to St. Cross feel like an inviting door that one is eager to enter; to be enfolded by these warm members in this special place. I hope that my efforts on behalf of the St. Cross community will continue to be fruitful.

Respectfully submitted,
Cameron Johnson

COOP

The COOP (Community of Open-Hearted Parents) 2019 Annual Report

The COOP is a community of parents that provides opportunities for St. Cross families to offer mutual support, share friendship, participate in child-friendly family events at St. Cross, and connect through God's love. In 2019, the COOP supported the following activities:

- In January, the COOP hosted the annual After Christmas Parents Party. This event was held in the Guild Room and offered parents an opportunity to relax and unwind after the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Everyone brought drinks and/or appetizers to share, and there was a white elephant gift exchange.
- In February, the COOP families attended a Winter Snow Playdate Weekend in Big Bear where everyone had a blast playing in the snow.
- The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held in Live Oak Park in Manhattan Beach on Saturday April 13 with a special appearance by the Easter Bunny followed by a family picnic.
- Monthly Gatherings. Rev. Rachel and Dr. Virginia Green led monthly discussion on Brene Brown's Wholehearted Parenting while the kids attended Sunday School.
- We coordinated and set up for the Christmas Pageant Reception providing lots of yummy treats and hosting Santa Claus.
- The Children made and handed out special "light em up" treats for the congregation to experience the gift of giving during the holidays.
- We closed out the year with the annual trip to Candy Cane Lane in El Segundo after dinner together at The Point.
- Throughout the year, the COOP coordinates family-friendly events. We organize play dates, happy hours, and other get-togethers throughout the year.
- Our Facebook website helps spread the word on the COOP activities and facilitates communications on other church correspondences geared towards families.

The COOP Coordinators

Sarah O'Grady

Jeanne Ogar

Purdey DesParte

Ecclesiastical Sewing Group

The Ecclesiastical Sewing Group meets to keep alive the old traditions of making linens and vestments. We also mend and repair damaged church goods, and share our skills and knowledge with other parish altar guilds. We design and make processional banners for St. Cross and send no longer used items to missions and/or needy parishes. We finished the Christmas/Epiphany banner this year and it hangs in the church for all to enjoy. (It was hung out last year, but needed some finishing touches which we did *this* year).

We have made many linen purificators, corporals, and lavabo towels. Somehow these items seem to disappear from the sacristy. There is now a good supply in the drawer.

The group meets most Tuesdays at 10 AM in the Parish Hall for stitching and fellowship. We have continued a tradition started by Connie Harley of "taking a tea break". There are a number of parishioners that stop by to have tea with us and share whatever we have to offer. Everyone is invited to take part and join in the discussions which could be on any subject.

We would like to have anyone interested in making items for the church join us. We can teach you if you have never done this kind of sewing. We would love to have stitchers that could spare some time for this ministry. If you are busy on Tuesday mornings you could take something to work on at home.

Please talk to anyone in our group: Patsy Brierley, Alice Feys, Bea Floyd, or Laura Geisel, about our sewing projects.

Submitted by Beatrice (Bea) Floyd

Education for Ministry

Do you have questions about your faith? Most people do, and most find it challenging to get answers. Education for Ministry was developed by the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, to provide a place for people to work through these questions and learn to connect faith to their daily lives through reading and discussion. In the Diocese of Los Angeles, EfM is considered one of the cornerstones of our adult Christian Formation and Education Programs. St. Cross is the host of one of the many active groups in our Diocese.

Lay persons face the difficult and often subtle task of interpreting the richness of the church's faith in a complex and confusing world. They need a theological education which supports their faith and also teaches them to express that faith in day-to-day events. As the emphasis on lay ministry has grown, EfM plays an important role by providing a program that develops an informed and knowledgeable laity. Participants in the EfM program study the entire sweep of the Christian tradition from the earliest period to the present. Participants learn the disciplines of biblical exegesis and interpretation, systematic theology, church history, ethics, and liturgics. Through study, prayer, and reflection, EfM groups move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom.

The EfM program does not evaluate or recommend individuals for ordination. Many people think that one must be ordained in order to be "a minister." The fact is that all baptized Christians are called to be active participants in the church's total ministry. This total ministry is nothing less than the exercise of the church's vocation to continue the ministry of Jesus. He reconciled the world to God. We are called to incarnate that reconciliation in our own time and in our own place through worship, service to others, and by proclamation of God's Word to all people.

EfM is preparation for the ministry to which we all are called. It is that vocation for which we pray at the end of the Eucharist: "Send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord."

EfM is a four-year curriculum. Each "year" is a nine-month cycle of study. Students enroll for one cycle at a time. The current seminar group has 8 enrolled students, mentored by Susan Tucker and Cameron Johnson. Alumni can now enroll to take any year. Our 2019 graduates are Larry Johnson and Jake Madrid, a parishioner at St. Francis, PVE. The group will have openings for September 2020—if you are interested, please let Susan, Cameron, or one of the clergy know of your interest!

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Tucker, Mentor

Emergency Committee

The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in Parker Hall continues to be maintained, and we hope to hold another all-congregation training in 2020. We had planned to have one in 2019, but couldn't find anyone to lead a streamlined AED session with "hands-only" CPR, so we directed all interested parties to go to the classes at Joslyn Center in Manhattan Beach, which are free to residents and employees in the Beach Cities. Also, most South Bay communities offer CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) classes which offer training in first aid, CPR, AED, search & rescue, light fire fighting, crisis management and other emergency issues.

During 2019, the usher group held an Active Shooter session with a member of the Hermosa Beach Police Department. It was very informative, and by the end of the session I believe everyone who attended was feeling more confident about dealing with this kind of dire situation.

In the Fall, we assisted Rev. Stephen and Facilities Manager Dave in preparing the Sunday School rooms with regard to emergency kits and fire extinguishers. We also purchased additional bleeding control supplies, and our dedicated helpers made sure the large medical bag in the electrical room on the southeast corner of the church corridor is up to date.

Our plans for a mental health first aid class had to be postponed in 2019, but we hope to offer it in 2020 since there has been a lot of interest expressed. This class will deal with such topics as depression, eating disorders, drugs, and suicide.

A basic emergency binder remains available in the church office.

Mervis Reissig and Becky Sims

Endowment Fund

Christian stewardship involves faithful management of the blessings God has given us including financial resources. These resources are given in the form of annual pledges and as gifts throughout the year to support the long-term work of the church.

Thanks to the vision and generosity of parishioners who have remembered St. Cross in their wills or made gifts specifically to these funds, St. Cross has been able to grow our two endowment funds--the Mission Endowment Fund and the General Endowment Fund. The two funds are in balanced investment vehicles to provide both growth and income and are administered by Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC.

Mission Endowment Fund: \$502,912 as of 12/31/2019

(which includes \$71,447 or 16.4% of 2019 investment return)

The Mission Endowment Fund, has been making grants since 2010 when its balance reached \$200,000 and triggered the ability to distribute fund investment earnings to outreach activities. Each year, grants can total up to 50% of the Fund's earned income. In 2018, the Mission Endowment Fund earned \$20,550 in income and of which 50% or \$10,275 was available to disburse in 2019. After reviewing all grant applications, the Endowment Committee suggested issuing grants totaling \$9,500. \$775 was carried forward to 2020. This suggested distribution and carry forward was presented to and approved by the Vestry.

Based on the 2019 Mission Endowment Fund performance, the Fund earned \$16,565 and has \$8,282 available for grants in 2020. With the \$775 carry over from last year, the Fund can distribute up to \$9,057 in 2020.

Permitted expenditures include financial support via grants and scholarships. Priority is given to first time applicants with consideration given to a repeat applicant, as funds are available. The individual or organization seeking funds must complete each application personally. 100% of Funds will be sent directly to the organization not applicant. Grants are available for ministries in the Christian community, local communities and for programs or projects of service at St. Cross. We give special consideration to local projects that include hands-on participation by parishioners. We will also consider new initiatives at St. Cross (such as a new education program or initiative within an existing ministry). Scholarships for active parishioners and their offspring are available. All scholarships require the applicant to be enrolled or accepted to an accredited or recognized program, including but not limited to: continuing education, trade school, college, seminary, nursing or graduate school for one year.

Completed applications are due Monday, March 16, 2020. Application forms will be available in the church office and via this link www.stcross.org/endowment-fund-application-available-online/ starting **Sunday, February 2, 2020**. Please submit paper copy to the church office or email an electronic copy to info@stcross.org. Successful applicants will be notified in May 2020.

General Endowment Fund: \$309,191 as of 12/31/2019

(which includes \$49,437 or 18.8% of 2019 investment return plus \$1,596 in gifts)

Distributions from the General Endowment fund are used for parish buildings, grounds and the general operating fund. Distributions are calculated at 50% of General Endowment Fund income once General Fund balance exceeds \$200,000. 2018 was the second year that the General Fund exceeded a balance of \$200,000 which resulted in \$2,718 available for distribution in 2018. However, these funds were not distributed in 2018. The \$2,718 was rolled forward and distributed along with the \$6,955 available for 2019 for a total grant of \$9,673, which was used to purchase several of the new doors for the education building. In 2019, the General Endowment Fund earned \$13,189 in income which allows for distribution up to \$6,594 in 2020.

Gifts to the Funds: Gifts of any size can be made to either fund at any time. Simply make a note on your check for distribution of funds to either the **Mission Endowment Fund** or the **General Endowment Fund**. Bequests are the foundation of endowment fund growth. Please consider St. Cross in your estate planning by using the following wording: *"I hereby bequeath to St. Cross Church, a religious organization presently located in Hermosa Beach, California, the sum of \$_____." My gift is to be allocated to the St. Cross (Mission/General) Endowment Fund.* Note: To limit the amount of the bequest to a specified percentage of your estate, add: *"or a sum equal to ___ percent of the residue of my estate after payment of taxes, costs and expenses of administration, whichever is less."* These gifts are often accumulated into endowment funds to grow through the years and provide income to use for special needs and to serve others.

Respectfully submitted, **Endowment Fund Trustees** Scott Gauch (0) - chair, Lori Schreier (1), Sarah Ferris (1), Mike Spitzer (0), Andrew Rogerson (2), Eileen Brown (2) *Numbers in parentheses are the years remaining in each trustee's term. Each year the congregation elects two trustees to three-year terms on the committee. We will be adding 2 members to the Committee in 2019.

Family Promise

Family Promise of the South Bay (FPSB) is a community-based approach to solving homelessness, engaging both the local community, as well as, houses of faith in an effort to combat family homelessness. Families receive a full complement of resources, services and training as they work towards their own stability and self-reliance. This is accomplished by providing short-term shelter, meals, case management and the support of volunteer congregations.

FPSB formed in response to the growing need to provide shelter, meals and comprehensive support to families without homes while allowing the family to remain in tact. Family Promise is one of only two resources in the South Bay of Los Angeles that allows homeless families to stay together in shelter while they work towards self-reliance. FPSB believes that no child should have to sleep in a car, in a park, or under a bridge, and that every family deserves to be whole and have a roof over their head again. It is through an effective and innovative approach that Family Promise partners with an interfaith network to serve newly homeless families.

Families entering the emergency shelter program stay as the guests of congregations throughout the South Bay. These churches open their doors to provide a bed for the evening, nutritious meals, and the hospitality of a loving community. Support Congregations, while not hosting families directly, strengthen the network by providing volunteers for host sites and the Family Day Center, supplies and food for the families, and in some cases, financial support for families when they graduate from the program.

As a support congregation, St. Cross is paired with Good Shepard Lutheran Church (Torrance), which serves as the host church. Additionally, both as a group and individually, members of St Cross have volunteered to support other host churches when needed.

In our FP ministry, we celebrate, explore and share God's love through service which includes providing food, hospitality and time when we are responsible for dinner, evening hosting and overnight stays. We in turn get to connect with people who are overcoming tremendous challenges and have such grace and fortitude. Additionally, those who participate in this ministry find it a sacred space to connect with others and find that we are not all as different as we may think.

Additionally, St Cross member support FPSB's fundraising efforts like their annual "Empty Bowls" event. Additionally, the St Cross ministry raises funds to purchase beds for the children and other needed items for families that graduate from the program and move to their own home.

We glorify God through our partnership with Family Promise by serving others. We are so fortunate to have the resources of food, time and God's glory, which allows us to go forth in FP ministry. One of our favorite expressions about this ministry is that we all have different resources to share and offer. We bring food, good will and kind words of support and in turn we witness the power of the Spirit through the success of people who receive what we offer and do the hard work to make their lives and their children's lives more hopeful.

– Sr. Patricia Sarah

Giving Tree

2019 was another very successful year for the Giving Tree. In all, we were able to donate gifts and grocery store gift cards to 47 families with a total of 148 children. Each child received at least two gifts and we were able to present each family with a \$75 grocery store gift card.

In total, we received \$4,260 in cash donations throughout November and December 2019. Minus expenses, our remaining balance for 2020 is approximately \$1,036.

We feel so incredibly fortunate to have been able to continue our partnership with a Redondo Beach Unified School District teacher. This wonderful teacher hosts a yearly gathering for friends where she raises funds to donate to a local charity. Again this year, Giving Tree was the beneficiary. The \$1,100 the teacher raised allowed us to buy each of the Redondo Beach children the top gift on their wish list.

Between the overwhelming generosity of St. Cross and the incredible donation from the Redondo Beach teacher, Giving Tree was able to touch the lives of 148 children throughout the South Bay and greater Los Angeles area this holiday season. We feel so grateful to help so many families on behalf of St. Cross. A sincere thank you from the Giving Tree team!

Bill Soper
Amy Hanrahan
Courtney Shott
Dana Thomas
Jennifer Salem

Habitat for Humanity

The St Cross Habitat for Humanity ministry helps to build new homes and to refresh older ones in the greater Los Angeles area. This ministry provides our church community with an opportunity to work together and to get to know each other a little better. The experience is inspiring and rewarding, and it helps foster teamwork and camaraderie among church members.

This year was a busy year for us. We assisted in two new builds, one in Culver City and the other in South Central Los Angeles. Our work included roofing, siding, installation, and painting. For both of these activities we had around 15 to 20 builders, and we were well supported with additional volunteer providing food and refreshments. A special thanks goes out to Sister Patricia Sarah, our meal coordinator, and also to Kent Brown for his donation of yummy Philly Cheesesteak sandwiches at our second build day in October.

St Cross Habitat for Humanity builds days are funded by individual member donations and from the church budget. This year we saw a substantial increase in the amount of funds needed to participate in a build that ultimately required some extra fundraising activities. Over the 4th of July weekend, the H4H Ministry raised additional funds by selling parking spots in the church parking lot. We also partnered with another group, James Wikkramatilleke and *The Thomian Society*, for one build, and we hope to continue this outreach in the future.

We have strived to make Habitat for Humanity a truly church-wide event. There are opportunities for almost every person in the parish to participate. We always need construction day volunteers, meal planners, money and (most importantly) your prayers. As the build days near, we will communicate with the Parish and work to get everyone involved. In the meantime, please contact us if you are interested in helping with the next Habitat for Humanity build day coming up on February 22, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
John Cheslick and Dan Wilson



History Committee

Mission Statement: To help preserve the 100+ years of St. Cross history through photographs, written history, and artifacts, including albums and posters. We enjoy a casual atmosphere, occasionally celebrating birthdays and holidays, while seriously cataloguing church activities and people for current members and posterity.

Our dear Barbara Moore, original member of our History Committee since 1992, died March 30. She was attending meetings until March 11.

Displays: In 2019, our credenza displays were: "Baptisms through the Ages," Mardi Gras, Places of Worship, Labyrinth, Palm Sunday through Holy Week, Easter – "Holy Fire," carving of Monterey Church, 110th Anniversary of Dedication of our First Church on 7/11/1909, VBS and Beach Masses, Holy Cross Day, "Blessing of the Animals," Baptism (All Saints' Sunday), *Messiah*, and Christmas Pageants. Guild Room posters have been changed periodically through the year.

Acquisitions: Photographs from John Graham and Michael Welch, 2018 Album by Audrie Wing, book of Ireland Pilgrimage 2018 by Kathy Shinkle, poster of Rodaway Family and Building of First Church by Pamela Barnes, and *Memories of St. Cross* photobook by Edith Rodaway.

History Q&A: Patsy Brierley's popular Crossroads contribution continues monthly, piquing readers' interest in St. Cross history and the church as a whole.

Summer Sunday Breakfast: extra photo giveaway continues to be well-received. We also show some albums and memorabilia.

In August Gary Grimes joined our group. Welcome, Gary!

The History Committee thanks our clergy for ongoing approval, our vestry for financial support, and the church staff for special help.

Thanks also to Dan Wilson and Bob Cornner and our members for excellent photos of parish events.

Respectfully submitted,
ST. CROSS HISTORY COMMITTEE
Pamela Barnes, Patsy Brierley,
Gary Grimes, Emma King,
Carol Reznichuk, Kathy Shinkle,
Audrie Wing, Pat Woolley, and
Marilyn Young



Laundry Love

Laundry Love is hands-on ministry which acknowledges a visible need in our community. When people have clean clothes, people treat them like human beings. To this end, volunteers from St. Cross meet at a laundromat once a month to supply detergent, dryer sheets, and the funds necessary to clean the clothes and bedding of people who are living in the streets, their cars, in low income housing and simply anyone who needs help. The activity also offers time to tune in with our guests, to listen and take a step back. Most evenings are busy and hectic, and not without drama, but at the end of the night we have all been fed. As the Rev. Jimmy Bartz puts it, “it is modern day foot washing”.

During the five years of growing our ministry we have created a robust accounting system, learned that clean trash bags are needed to carry clothes home in, kids still like crayons, and everyone loves pizza. Our expenditures average \$635 a month. Currently 90% of our funding comes from individual donations and fundraising with the remaining 10% coming from the St. Cross ministry budget. Volunteers come from various circles within St. Cross and increasingly include community members who hear about us via the internet or word of mouth. New friendships have developed as we interact with each other and those we serve. The community we nurture is a transient one, but we know many of our guests’ names and their stories. We have seen a few at church, spot others around town, and worry about “regulars” that are absent on laundry night. On average we assist 35 people/families each month and our sign-in sheets show hundreds more that visit only once or twice.

In November David and Shane attended a Los Angeles gathering of Laundry Love chapters from around Southern California. The founder, along with Laundry Love’s sole employee, organized the event as part of a nationwide tour allowing volunteers to share their experiences, ideas and energy in hopes for growth amongst all Laundry Loves — some innovations include LOVE Coffee (fair trade coffee from Artisan coffee roasters in Portland that we now offer to St. Cross coffee lovers, with 1/3 of the price of each bag going to fund our St. Cross Laundry Love). Also announced at the event was a new school program that is designed to support children of families experiencing homelessness. The program is being tested by Laundry Love on the East Coast with a potential national roll-out in 2020. Shane and David came back from the event fired up to continue to grow and evolve our Laundry Love program at St. Cross.

Also in November, Shane, David and Susan visited Safe Parking LA in Korea-town to learn about their program which supports people who are experiencing homelessness and are living in their cars. The program provides a safe and secure monitored parking lot located at St. Mary’s Mariposa to spend the night at, along with consultation services to help guests take steps to move on to a more stable situation.

Laundry Love began 14 years ago in Ventura, California (learn more at Laundrylove.org) and it’s a growing community of compassion with more than 40 new locations established across the country this year. About a dozen volunteers from St. Cross are regularly involved with Laundry Love which takes place at Clean Scene Laundromat - 2301 Artesia Blvd, Redondo Beach on the last Wednesday of the month. Come join us at 6:00PM, help with the late shift from 8 to 10PM, or just come by and say hello. We can always use new volunteers. You can also find us also on Facebook at Laundry Love South Bay.

With love,
Shane Mathews, David Charlton, Jim Sullivan, and Susan Tsutsumi

Listening Hearts

Listening Hearts, formerly Enduring Hearts, meets every Monday morning at 10:00AM in the Guild Room. The purpose of the group is to provide a peaceful, comforting, safe and holy place among loving and accepting friends to share feelings that are on our hearts in a confidential setting. With Rev. Nathan Biornstad's regular guidance, we explore how God speaks to us. The meetings are regularly attended by 10 to 12 people. The group offers Christian support to one another through reading of scripture, poetry and books followed by discussion. Our most recent book study is: *THE PRODIGAL GOD, Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith, by Timothy Keller.*

The Listening Hearts group sponsors the Altar of Repose for All Souls and All Saints days. It also sponsors the Longest Night service in Advent and the Holy Innocents services during Christmas. The group provides a strong support system at St. Cross. The most often used self description of the group is family. The group welcomes all, male and female, who wish to share their feelings. We are happy to report that a few new people have joined us for our weekly meeting. We are also appreciative of Rev. Nathan Biornstad's regular presence.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Baird Krusic

Men's Bible Study

We are a small informal group of men, mostly parishioners, with the firm intent to join in fellowship, to share and discuss the BIBLE. Usually some part of one of the four Gospels gives us plenty of topics to read, then exchange thoughts on what we have just heard. Some times we even agree on the message. Very often we look at the Gospel reading for the next Sunday so we might understand the Gospel better when it is being read in church. But that has changed in the past to meet the interest of the group.

We meet every Wednesday at St. Cross starting at 5:45 PM for about one hour. This gives those interested the opportunity to attend Men's Bible "STUDY" and still be able to attend the Holy Eucharist Service at 7:00 PM that evening. Need more answers and a good reason for joining us, please call:

Ed Margrave 310-322-0878

or

Bill Soper 310-736-4934

See some of you on Wednesday. Stay Blessed, the Men's Bible Study

Music Department: Chancel Choir

The sanctuary choir has closed on another great year of music and liturgy in our worship services. In addition to our regular Sunday morning worship, the Chancel Choir, Handbells and Youth Choir continues to present a variety of special musical services with seasonal regularity.

Highlights in last year's musical events included an Evensong and Healing Service hosted with members of the Order of St. Luke, Messiah sing-along, and a service of Lessons & Carols on Christmas II. Our Christmas Eve services featured beautiful musical offerings by our Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, and Handbells, and included a variety of favored seasonal hymns and choral works. This year, we were blessed by the musical stylings of harpist Linda-Rose Hembreiker during the Christmas Eve late service.

A major portion of renovation work to our sanctuary pipe organ has been completed. The new organ console has been installed with a new, solid-state relay system, which includes an expanded number of settable pistons, and which adds to the organ's musical flexibility. Continuing maintenance and upkeep on the pipes, wind chests and other mechanisms continues, which improves the overall condition, sound, and function of the instrument.

We look forward to a series of chamber music concerts early in the year, as well as a service of Choral Evensong, jointly hosted by St. Cross and the Long Beach Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, which will serve as the final chapter event, a Guild Service and installation of board members. This will be a traditional Anglican-style Evensong, and the St. Cross choir will be featured prominently in this important musical event.

We eagerly look forward to this New Year. The congregation's support and encouragement, are very much appreciated. The Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 7:30pm to 9pm. Anyone interested in participating in any of the music groups at St. Cross are encouraged to contact me, or any of the other members of the music program.

Sean O'Neal
Director of Music

Music Department: Bell Choir

The St Cross Bell Choir continues to be an important part of the music ministry at St Cross. Our *Bell Choir* rings with a minimum of 11 persons when we present a musical offering, usually one Sunday per month at the 10am service. This year we also rang at both Palm Sunday services in the spring, and during the 9:30pm service on Christmas Eve.

Our regular Thursday night rehearsals go from 6:15pm to 7:15pm. We work hard in rehearsals and have become a committed '*community within a community*' as we prepare each week to serve.

We're always looking for new ringers to work into the group when someone must be absent due to illness or vacation. Any interested persons, both young AND *not-so-young*, please contact Dan Wilson or any member of the group for further details. We'd love to have you join us.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Wilson

Music Department: Youth Choir

The St. Cross youth choir is for singers in third through eighth grades. Our mission is to expand choir members' musical skills, and experience a sense of community and service to the church through music. On the technical side we work on vocal technique, ensemble singing, harmony, basic music theory, ear training and sight-singing. We also work on building community within the choir and using song to express God's love in our lives.

The choir provides a musical offering at the 10:00am church service once a month. Rehearsals are weekly on Sundays after church, 11:15am-Noon. All are welcome including friends who are not yet members of the church. We sing a variety of choral repertoire including musical theatre, gospel and classical.

We re-started the choir in May 2019 with six members and ended the year with nine singers. The larger the group, the more we can do with harmony. I'm looking forward to expanding the choir in 2020.

Singing in choir is fun and enriching. The *do-re-mi's* help you excel beyond the ABC's. Studies show that music has a positive effect on abstract reasoning and problem-solving skills, and increases neural pathways in the brain.

If you are a singer or someone you know would like to participate, please feel free to contact me at candaceford1@mac.com. Registration forms are available in the church office. Join us!

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Ford,
Youth Choir Director

Neighbor to Neighbor

Sharing God's love beyond our walls ...

Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) is an ecumenical outreach program. Volunteers from St. Cross prepare a hot dinner for about 50-60 men, women and children the first Thursday of every month at Journey Covenant Church in Redondo Beach. Multiple religious groups provide dinner the other Thursdays. The third Thursday of the month the guests receive medical assistance from volunteer medical personnel.

We often have two shifts of volunteers, those who prepare the meals and those who help serve the meals, while others do both. We are blessed to have loyal caring volunteers who staff the dinner each month. Boy Scout Troop 849 (Manhattan Beach) assist St. Cross volunteers with serving and cleanup. A young mom Katie and daughters decorate the tables for our guests. In addition to the prepared hot dinner, the Kiwanis Club of Hermosa Beach prepare "to go lunches" for the guests to take with them for the next day.

We continue the December tradition of delivering bags of toiletries and new socks to our guests. We are grateful for St. Monica's Guild for organizing Sock Sunday and gathering the toiletries and to the Boy Scouts for preparing the bags and giving them out at our Christmas dinner.

We appreciated so much the efforts and dedication of Kim Larsen this year. We are sad to see her relinquish this task but hope to see her in and out as her schedule fits. Marlene Fleischauer, our dedicated coordinator and long time volunteer for N2N stepped down in July. We will miss Marlene's great organizational and culinary skills greatly. We will miss both these ladies very much but do hope to see them from time to time in the kitchen!

We are pleased to have Alison Edwards and Bob Schuchard volunteer to be coordinators for this coming year. These two have been very dedicated volunteers for a long time and pleased to have them coordinate the month to month dinners. As we look forward to our next Neighbor to Neighbor dinner, we realize just how important these dinners are to our guests and ourselves. This ministry ensures those who need food have access to a caring environment where they can sit and have a hot "home-cooked" meal. St. Cross volunteers are afforded the opportunity to give their time, resources, and attention to our guests.

Respectfully submitted, Marlene Fleischauer,
Kim Larsen, Angela Oliver, Susan Siegmund



Order of St. Luke (OSL)

The Hermosa Beach Chapter of the Order of St. Luke the Physician

The International Order of St. Luke the Physician (OSL) is an ecumenical organization dedicated to Christian healing ministry. It was founded in 1932 by the late Rev. John Gayner Banks (an Episcopal Priest), and his wife, Ethel Tulloch Banks, for the purpose of restoring the ministry of healing to the Church as well as to extend healing ministry beyond the Church to the greater community into hospitals, nursing homes and everywhere else where people are in need.

The core values of St. Cross that resonate with us are glorifying God by serving others by offering ourselves as vessels of Christ's ministry of healing. We also seek to create a sacred space where those in need of healing may be made present before God.

St. Cross sponsors the Hermosa Beach Chapter of OSL which meets every other month on the second Sunday of the month from 5-7PM. After a simple meal of soup, bread and salad, after a brief check-in, we discuss Scripture, books and other materials on Christian healing and wholeness. We also have a brief healing prayer service. All are welcome to attend our meetings whether or not they are interested in membership.

We feel that much of what we do embodies the mission and vision of St. Cross. We offer opportunities to learn more about Christian healing and healing prayer. We developed a meditative and contemplative healing service. On October 20, 2019, we joined with our Director of Music, Sean O'Neal and the St. Cross Chancery Choir to offer a service of Evensong with Healing Prayer. We plan to continue offering different types of healing prayer services in 2020.

Sr. Patricia Sarah and Becky Sims, Conveners

Peace and Justice

This has been an active year. In 2019, the Peace & Justice Community partnered with Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) to bring their “Human Migration” display to the South Bay. It was quite an undertaking, with 27 volunteers and 1 incredible MSF nurse, Miriam! She would have had more help, but the MSF doctor was called to Congo for the Ebola crisis just before our event. I still run into people in the vicinity who were at the event and compliment St. Cross on it! In addition to the several stages of human migration, we showed the Ai Weiwei film, Human Flow, which is available on Amazon and which we highly recommend!

In February, we continued our book study group, reading MLK’s final book, “*Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community.*” That effort led us to restart the Edwin Kampmann film series, and we showed both the feature film, “If Beale Street Could Talk” and the 2012 documentary “The Central Park Five” as our initial offerings. There seemed to be more enthusiasm for the Sunday at 5 pm showing, and we hope to continue the film series in 2020, starting with “Inside Out” just to provide a lighter but still relevant choice.

Both the book study and the film series led to our group’s working with Rev. Rachel to create the Civil Rights pilgrimage, upcoming in March 2020.

The P&J retreat was held at the Maryknoll Catholic Sisters’ retirement home in Monrovia. Both Rev. Greg Kimura and Rev. Jaime Edwards-Acton joined us to share stories about their migrant ministries, about the wonderful jump rope project at St. Stephens to pull in the youth from the area; and to listen to some of the Maryknoll Sisters’ stories, as they were delighted to join us for various parts of the Retreat.

2020 will likely see us involved in voting education again, and hope we can join with other congregants to bring Peace & Justice to the community and the world! Our mission is to add to the outreach efforts of St. Cross, so everyone is always welcome to attend our meetings, and to make suggestions about the projects our ministry undertakes.

Margy Harrell, Mervis Reissig, Sr. Patricia Sarah Terry

Prayer Shawl

In the chapel of our church there is a wooden rack holding several hand made shawls. In 2006 the Prayer Shawl Ministry of St. Cross was established and it is still going strong. We have had countless thank you notes from recipients over the years and it is always heartening to receive feedback that we have made a difference in someone's life.

Several members of our parish knit, crochet or weave shawls that are designed to bring comfort, or joy, to someone in need, or someone who is celebrating.

While we have never been able to keep track of the shawls that are knit, crocheted or woven...there is always a supply waiting for those in need of an extra hug or as a means of adding another source of celebration in their lives.

Any parishioner who would like to present a shawl to a family member or friend is free to select one and take a suitable prayer from the supply in the chapel. Additionally, gift bags are available in the church office.

Rev. Nathan is our clergy contact and has recently re-established a partnership with a chaplain at the UCLA Medical Center in Santa Monica to provide some of our prayer shawls for their cancer patients.

As of January 2020 the administration of this ministry will be handled by Mary Tedford, a very dedicated and extremely talented yarn enthusiast. We are a dedicated group of people that meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 6 – 7 pm in room 4. If you are interested in joining us, please do! We teach too!

Laura Geisel
Chair, Prayer Shawl Ministry

Property Committee

The St. Cross Property Committee was tasked with deciding best use for our rental properties. We spent the last year focused on the best and highest use for 1736 Monterey. As you may recall, this property formerly was home to The Family Crisis Center. After they relocated, 1736 Monterey was found to be in very poor condition and improvements were required.

In keeping with the concept of utilizing our building assets for the “highest and best use” to benefit the mission of St. Cross, we considered multiple options for improving the property. After consulting with local architects, the St. Cross Buildings and Grounds Committee and our property management company, we determined that the most cost effective and highest fund-generating option was to do a comprehensive rehab that would allow the property to be rented at market rates.

In September, the Vestry approved the Committee’s recommendation to completely renovate and upgrade the property. We worked to secure a loan with Farmers and Merchants Bank, and have also contracted with Dave Garrett to do the renovation, which will begin this month. We expect the work will take 9 to 12 months.

Additionally, we are working on a plan to evaluate all of our rental properties for property improvement plans. The focus is on improving the quality of the physical structures to sustain and improve income for the work of St. Cross.

Mary Pierson

Readers for Life

Readers for Life celebrates, explores and shares God's love through its study of spiritually-themed books, including philosophy, spiritual practices, theology, memoirs, histories and novels. Readers for Life nurtures members' spiritual development, expresses Christ's love through its hospitality and offers a sacred space for members to share ideas and opinions. Since 2003, the group has discussed more than 125 books, including in 2019:

Sapiens by Yuval Noah Harari

Lab Girl by Hope Jahren

Beartown by Fredrik Backman

Educated by Tara Westover

Man's Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankl

Grateful by Diana Butler Bass

The Moment of Lift by Melinda Gates

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? by Philip K. Dick

Meetings are the third Friday of each month and begin with a potluck dinner. New members are always welcome. To be added to the mailing list, contact Kathy Shinkle at kathyshinkle@verizon.net.

The next meeting is at 6:30 pm Friday, February 21, 2020. It is a book selection meeting where we will be choosing books to read for the next six months.

Kathy Shinkle

Recorder Consort

The Recorder Consort is a part of the very active music program at St. Cross. Playing a variety of sacred and secular music, we have played at church services and the Sociable Seniors meetings. In February we will be performing at the annual nTyme all-day music marathon. We hope to share our music this coming year with visits to nursing homes and other assisted living facilities.

The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 5:30pm in Room 5. We welcome new members. If you have some musical background (no matter how far in the distance past) and can read music, we would be happy to have you join us. We have recorders for loan, and can provide instruction to get you started. For additional information, contact Sharon Holmes at (310) 379-2061 or lesterp2@roadrunner.

Sharon Holmes

St. Monica's Guild

As a ministry of St. Monica's Guild, we share God's love with the gift of hospitality by hosting receptions in Parker Hall.

We also gather new, warm socks and toiletries to be given to those in need. These much-appreciated gifts are given out yearly at the December Neighbor to Neighbor dinner.

In addition, we meet four times a year for fun and fellowship. All women of St. Cross are most welcome to join this great group of women.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Grimes, Bitsy Lutton, and Alison Wilcox

Sociable Seniors

We celebrated our 25th anniversary in 2019! Twenty-five years after its founding, the Sociable Seniors group continues to be an active and engaging ministry at St. Cross. We meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday from September to June in Parker Hall.

In January 2019, we gathered to watch the classic 1947 movie *It Happened on 5th Avenue* and, later that same month, we learned about Center Prayer from Sarah Ferris.

In February, we celebrated Valentine's Day and learned how to prevent fraud with an in-person presentation by the Hermosa PD.

In March, we played BINGO – a very popular game with the Sociable Seniors and, later in the month, we watched the inspirational 2018 movie *I Can Only Imagine*.

In April, the Los Angeles County Fire Department gave a stirring presentation on how the county fire department is different from the Hermosa Beach Fire Department (now disbanded). They also discussed wildfires, fire prevention, logistics of firefighting, discussed the renovation of the Hermosa Fire Station, and gave us an up-close view of their firetruck. Towards the end of April, we also visited the San Antonio Winery, near downtown Los Angeles, went on a wine tour of the factory, and ate a delicious lunch.

In May, we divided into teams and played a live version of Family Feud. It got a little crazy, but day was filled with laughter. Also in May, the St. Cross History Committee provided the group photo albums that reminded us of previous activities.

In June, we concluded the program year with BINGO.

Throughout the summer months, we did something unusual. We met once a month at the group's favorite restaurant: New York Deli in Torrance.

Then, in September, we launched our program year. We celebrated our 25th year! A couple of members who were with us twenty-five years ago, returned to group to celebrate. Also in September, we continued our annual BBQ in Valley Park tradition.

In October, we watched the classic 1950 movie *Cheaper by the Dozen*. Two weeks later, we traveled to the Getty Villa, where we saw ancient Roman and Greek sculptures and toured the garden and gift shop. Unfortunately, the bus ride back to Hermosa was without air conditioning, but everyone managed to do their best to stay positive.

In November, we gathered just once. We returned to New York Deli for another tasty meal.

In the month of December, we held our annual Christmas Party and gift exchange. The Recorder Group also provided us a brief concert after we shared a potluck lunch together. While reading a variation of *The Night Before Christmas*, as is our tradition, whenever the words "pass" "past" or any other variant are read, we pass the gift to the person on our right. This frequent passing of the gifts led to a lot of laughter and amusement.

Throughout the entire year, the Cathy Smitha and Helen Price provided the dessert and often other items to eat. Before every meeting Joe Smitha and Tim Smitha would set up the tables and then serve tea and coffee when everyone had gathered. Sonja McCoy also continued to play the piano so that we could sing happy birthday to those celebrating their birthdays that month.

With all these great activities and good times, don't you wish that you were retirement age or older? Anyone retirement age or older is welcome to join us in Parker Hall on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month in Parker Hall.

Rev. Nathan Biornstad

Softball

Dodgers Finally Lose, 13 – 3 Despite O’Grady’s Blast

Dodgers (8-1) finally took one on the chin by losing to South Bay Church of God. Jamie O’Grady (.944) had 3 Hits, Home Run, Double, 2 Runs, 1 RBI. Aaron Rose (.750) contributed 2 Hits, Double. These 2 were the offense as team only had 9 hits. Other contributors on offense with 1 Hit were Doug Hall (.714); Jennae People (.583); Jena P (.500) 1 RBI; and Bruce Difley (.800). Bruce (0-1) hurled from the mound in his first game pitching. Next week’s game is with South Bay Church of God for the Championship.

O’Grady and Barnes Go Deep in Dodgers Championship Win

The Dodgers (9-1) win “C” Division by besting South Bay Church of God 16-13. Leading hitter Jamie O’Grady (.909) with 3 Hits, Home Run, Double, 2 runs and Seth Barnes (.600) with 2 Hits, Home Run, Double, 4 RBIs, 2 Runs each hit Home Runs in the first inning to pave the way for a 21-Hit offense. Other multiple hit games by Sean McCue (.800) 3/4, 3 Doubles, 3 Runs, 2 RBIs; Autumn Hoffman (.706) 2/3, 2 RBIs; Andy Simon (.476) 2/4, 2 Doubles, 2 RBIs; Aaron Rose (.556) 2/4, 2 Runs; Joe DesParte (.765) 2/2, 2 Runs; and Coach Bruce Difley (.815) 2/2, Double, 2 RBIs helped the team to victory. Others who had 1 Hit were Clement Ogar (.571) Double; Caren Brownlie (.556) Triple; and Andrew Welch (.400). Sean (8-0) remained perfect through the year while pitching.

St. Cross Softball Final

The Dodgers finished as “C” Division Champions. This year 24 players: Jamie O’Grady, Coach Bruce Difley, Sean McCue, Joe DesParte, Megan and Malinda Difley, Doug Hall, Autumn Hoffman, Madi and Ellie Weissenberg, Shane and Eileen Mathews, Seth and Sam Barnes, Clement Ogar, Caren Brownlie, Aaron Rose, Jennae People, Jena T., Andy Simon, Andrew Welch, Jim Sullivan, Kate F., and Rhonda B. played for the team. Men’s Most Valuable Player was Sean McCue who batted .800 and 2.033 slugging with 17 extra base hits and a perfect 8-0 on the mound, and Women’s Most Valuable Player was Autumn Hoffman who batted .706. Offensive Player of the year was Jamie O’Grady who batted .909 and 2.045 slugging and had 14 extra base hits. Men’s Rookie of the year was Clement Ogar who batted .571 and Women’s Co-Rookies of the year were Ellie (.421) and Madi Weissenberg (.700). Men’s Defensive Player of the year was Aaron Rose at shortstop and Autumn was Women’s Defensive player of the year at second base. The 11th Sub of the year goes to Malinda Difley who filled in when missing women were late to game. Thanks to Malinda and Megan plus Candace Ford for baby sitting some of our younger players children during the games.

Mike Welch and Bruce Difley

Front Row – Coach Bruce Difley, Batboy Paul Ogar, Andy Simon, Caren Brownlie, Sean McCue, Jennae People

Back Row – Seth Barnes, Jamie O’Grady, Aaron Rose, Joe DesParte, Clement Ogar, Andrew Welch, Autumn Hoffman



Ushers

Ushers express Christ's love through hospitality and glorifying God by serving others. Ushers greet, provide assistance and make everyone feel welcome in a sacred space. We are so fortunate to have our youth serve as ushers on the third Sunday of each month. They perform this ministry with a great sense of belonging and being able to give back to their faith community in a way that youth can. Ushering is an important ministry at St. Cross Episcopal Church. Ushering at all services is a great way to get to know everyone in the parish and assist with the service. Ushers also assist at weddings and funeral services.

This year we welcomed Ed Dahdah, the Rite 13 youth; Natalie Brown, Sandra Kelly, Paul Ogar, Reece Shott, Charlie Baboolal and Abrielle Auld and their teachers to our team of long-time ushers. We appreciate and thank the dedicated service of our retiring usher, Chris Angelo, for his commitment to this ministry.

We are grateful to all ushers for their time, hospitality and love for the people of St. Cross. If you would like to become an usher please let us know what Sunday works for you!

Lee Spivey and Marilyn Young



Women's Bible Study

St. Cross has many ministries – for women, men, youth, children, families. They meet during the day, evening, weekends. There is something for everyone. You just need to find the right one for you. So...if you are a woman, available at 9am on Wednesday mornings, and interested in learning more about the Bible and our/your faith, one of the St. Cross ministries is Women's Bible Study.

During 2019, we finished our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's book *Crazy Christians*; read Karen Armstrong's *12 Steps to a Compassionate Life*; used the *Forward Day by Day* booklet during the summer as we met at Yellow Vase on PCH, Surf Food Stand in north Manhattan Beach, and Java Man; and spent the Fall reading and discussing Rob Bell's *What is the Bible?*. Now that book has sparked quite a bit of discussion!

We enjoy our far-ranging discussions and the fellowship the group provides. And we'd love for others to join us.

Wednesday morning at 9am in the Guild Room.

Patsy Brierley and the Women's Bible Study attendees

Treasurer's Report

Following is the Income and Expense statement of St. Cross Episcopal Church for the calendar year ending December 31, 2019, together with the annual budget for that year and a comparison of the differences between actual and budget amounts. Also included is the St. Cross Budget for 2020.

In general terms, operating revenues for 2019 fell exceeded budgeted levels by \$14,794, however total rental receipts for the year fell \$26,770 below projected levels due to the absence of income from one rental property for the entire year and significantly higher capital expenditure costs for unanticipated maintenance expenses to the other rental properties. As a result, total receipts fell behind projected levels for the year. Administrative expenses also exceeded budgeted levels due to higher than projected insurance expenses for employee health care, unemployment, worker's compensation, and umbrella insurance, as well as office equipment expenses. In addition, parish property expenses significantly exceeded budgeted levels as a result of the Church being billed for property taxes on its exempt properties in 2019. This occurred as a result of the apparent loss in the mail of the 2018 property tax exemption forms for the Church, and the consequential failure to timely file the property tax exemption claim for 2019 when no exception filing forms were received. Both claims have been (re)submitted and we have recently been told that refunds of the payments for 2018 should be anticipated in 4 to 6 weeks, net of any assessed penalties (waiver of which will be requested). Our filing for 2019 has been acknowledged as being received and pending review, and further refunds are anticipated in 2020. As a consequence, the Church experienced a net deficit of \$61,558 for 2019.

During 2019 St. Cross completed construction on the Church renovations contemplated under the Capital Campaign, with total expenditures for this project of \$1,623,988. This amount includes change orders of \$309,194, principally for repairs to the church and education wing buildings required to remediate water damage to the walls, balcony and roof discovered during construction. As a result of these unexpected increases in the cost of the project, construction of the elevator planned for the education building and renovations to the Parker Hall kitchen were deferred. As of yearend, unpaid construction indebtedness due to Farmers & Merchants Bank for the project stood \$366,787. Total pledges received for the capital campaign were \$1,502,013, of which \$1,146,597 had been fulfilled as of December 31, 2019. The remaining outstanding balance of pledges at yearend was \$355,416.

Konrad Schreier, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report - Income & Expense Statement

		2019 Totals	2019 Budget	2019 Difference	2020 Budget
	RECEIPTS:				
1	For General Operations:				
2	Pledge Offering	535,867	537,500	(1,633)	560,000
3	Regular Offering - Non-Pledgers	59,907	45,000	14,907	55,000
4	Plate Offering/Other Donations	29,448	30,000	(552)	30,000
5	Interest Income	1,565	600	965	1,500
6	Dividends Income	1,107	0	1,107	0
7	Total Operating Income	627,894	613,100	14,794	646,500
8	For Specifically Designated Funds:				
9	Kitchen Kids Camp	4,000	3,500	500	3,500
10	Summer Breakfasts:	951	2,000	(1,049)	2,000
11	VBS	1,961	1,000	961	1,000
12	Remittances	(353)	0	(353)	0
13	Las Families: Collections	0	0	0	0
14	Remittances	0	0	0	0
15	Episcopal Relief Fund: Collections	0	0	0	0
16	Remittances	0	0	0	0
17	Good Friday Offering: Collections	670	0	670	0
18	Remittances	(670)	0	(670)	0
19	Habitat for Humanity: Collections	0	0	0	0
20	Remittances	0	0	0	0
21	Total Designated Funds' Net Receipts	6,559	6,500	59	6,500
22	Net Rental Income:				
23	Rental Income	421,603	440,000	(18,398)	433,883
24	Rental Expenses	(157,001)	(137,157)	(19,844)	(153,231)
25	Lease Income (Cellular Antenna)	41,555	38,359	3,196	38,359
26	Organizations	40,274	32,000	8,274	32,000
27	Net Rental Income	346,431	373,202	(26,771)	351,011
28	TOTAL RECEIPTS	980,884	992,802	(11,918)	1,004,011
29	DISBURSEMENTS:				
30	Missions:				
31	Diocesan Commitment	129,851	129,851	0	127,822
32	Habitat for Humanity	1,000	1,000	0	5,000
33	Community Garden	275	720	(445)	0
34	Camp Stevens	0	1,000	(1,000)	1,000
35	Campus Ministries/Seminary	0	2,000	(2,000)	2,000
36	Theological Education Support	1,102	1,000	102	1,000
37	Laundry Love	500	500	0	500
38	Family Promise	889	500	389	500
39	Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program	2,347	2,500	(153)	3,000
40	Discretionary Funds-Clergy	2,615	3,000	(385)	3,000
41	Total Missions	138,579	142,071	(3,492)	143,822

Treasurer's Report - Income & Expense Statement

		2019 Totals	2019 Budget	2019 Difference	2020 Budget
42	Pastoral Ministries:				
43	Rector: Salary & Housing	100,000	100,000	(0)	100,000
44	Rector: S. E. C. A. Allowance	15,300	15,300	0	15,300
45	Rector: Insurance	11,208	11,119	89	11,959
46	Rector: Pension	25,770	26,980	(1,210)	26,980
47	Rector: Conference/Business	5,528	5,000	528	5,000
48	Rector: Reimbursable Contract Expenses	4,803	5,000	(197)	5,000
49	Rector: Continuing Education	1,303	3,000	(1,697)	3,000
50	Pastoral Associate: Salary & Housing	67,000	67,000	0	67,000
51	Pastoral Associate: S.E. C. A. Allowance	5,126	5,126	0	5,126
52	Pastoral Associate: Insurance	9,511	9,391	120	18,178
53	Pastoral Associate: Pension	13,290	16,877	(3,587)	18,169
54	Pastoral Associate: Continuing Education	2,191	1,000	1,191	1,000
55	Pastoral Associate: Conference/Business	868	1,000	(132)	1,000
56	Pastoral Associate: Mileage/Moving/Reimbursable Exp.	600	500	100	500
57	Pastoral Associate 2: Salary & Housing	69,892	67,000	2,892	72,126
58	Pastoral Associate 2: S.E. C. A. Allowance	5,360	5,126	234	5,518
59	Pastoral Associate 2: Insurance	12,007	11,491	516	9,298
60	Pastoral Associate 2: Pension	14,070	16,877	(2,807)	18,169
61	Pastoral Associate 2: Continuing Education	0	1,000	(1,000)	1,000
62	Pastoral Associate 2: Conference/Business	1,610	1,000	610	1,000
63	Deacon Salary	6,000	6,000	0	6,000
64	Deacon Payroll Taxes	459	459	0	459
65	Deacon Pension	1,080	1,080	0	1,080
66	Deacon Cont. Ed.	129	0	129	0
67	Moving Expenses	1,821	500	1,321	500
68	Associate for Ministries-Education	450	0	450	0
69	Consultants	500	2,000	(1,500)	2,000
70	Sabbatical for Clergy	1,000	1,000	0	2,000
74	Visiting Clergy	312	1,000	(688)	1,000
75	Total Pastoral Ministry	377,187	381,826	(4,639)	398,362
76	Parish Ministry				
77	Altar Supplies	1,702	2,500	(798)	2,500
78	Books & Tracts	806	1,000	(194)	1,000
79	Parish Life	13,990	10,000	3,990	10,500
80	Pastoral Care & Wellness Program	1,423	3,600	(2,177)	3,600
81	Sanctuary Expense & Liturgy	1,113	2,000	(887)	2,000
82	Peace & Justice	750	750	0	750
83	Vestry Expenses	5,703	4,500	1,203	5,000
84	Convention Expenses	1,145	750	395	750
85	Hospitality & Membership	4,308	6,000	(1,692)	8,000
86	Stewardship	4,467	3,000	1,467	4,000
87	Sociable Seniors	1,188	2,000	(812)	2,000
88	Historical Committee	265	500	(235)	500
89	Men's Fellowship	750	750	0	750
90	St. Claire's	500	500	0	500
91	Connection	0	0	0	1,000
92	Total Parish Ministry	38,110	37,850	260	42,850

Treasurer's Report - Income & Expense Statement

		2019 Totals	2019 Budget	2019 Difference	2020 Budget
93	Administrative Expenses:				
94	Lay Personnel Salary	111,881	110,032	1,849	110,032
95	Lay Personnel Overtime	877	1,500	(623)	1,500
96	Lay Personnel: Payroll Taxes	13,575	8,417	5,158	8,417
97	Lay Personnel: Pension	6,791	7,061	(270)	7,061
98	Lay Personnel: Insurance	33,729	31,370	2,359	25,404
99	Advertising	5,293	4,000	1,293	4,000
100	Bulletins & Printing	12,042	11,000	1,042	11,000
101	Dues	2,329	2,000	329	2,000
102	Insurance (Liab/WC/Business/Umbrella)	24,525	6,000	18,525	21,835
103	Office Supplies & Expenses	9,692	10,000	(308)	2,000
104	Office Maintenance	1,437	2,000	(563)	2,000
105	Website Maintenance/Realm Maintenance	1,668	3,000	(1,332)	3,000
106	Office Replacements	1,168	2,000	(832)	2,000
107	Postage	4,636	5,000	(364)	5,000
108	Telephone	6,861	6,000	861	6,000
109	Staff Gifts	3,600	3,000	600	3,000
110	Staff Development Day	0	0	0	1,000
111	Bank Charges	787	1,000	(213)	1,000
112	Outside Audit Fees	0	0	0	0
113	Multimedia	26,400	26,000	400	26,000
114					
115	Total Administrative Expense	267,289	239,380	27,909	242,249
116	Education Ministry:				
117	Ch. Ed. Curriculum	853	2,000	(1,147)	2,000
118	Ch. Ed. Training	1,600	2,000	(400)	2,000
119	Ch. Ed. Projects & Materials	1,257	2,000	(743)	2,000
120	Ch. Ed. Supplies	1,770	2,000	(230)	2,000
121	Child Care	1,680	5,000	(3,320)	5,000
122	Youth Ministries: Senior & Junior High	2,078	4,000	(1,922)	4,000
123	Vacation Bible School	3,791	2,000	1,791	2,000
124	CNC Mission	0	0	0	0
125	J2A Pilgrimage	1,000	1,000	0	1,000
126	Acolytes - LEM	77	200	(123)	200
127	Adult Education & Forum	1,432	1,000	432	1,000
128	Total Education Expenses	15,538	21,200	(5,662)	21,200

Treasurer's Report - Income & Expense Statement

		2019 Totals	2019 Budget	2019 Difference	2020 Budget
129	Music Ministry				
130	Choir Director: Salary	32,325	30,000	2,325	30,000
131	Choir Director: Payroll Taxes	2,473	2,678	(205)	2,295
132	Choir Director: Pension	2,025	3,150	(1,125)	2,700
134	Youth Choir Director	4,792	4,250	542	4,250
135	Substitute Organists	3,100	2,000	1,100	2,000
136	Section Leaders	30,605	24,250	6,355	24,250
137	Messiah Fund/Expenses	250	1,000	(750)	1,000
138	Music Program Expenses/Contract Musicians	7,442	5,000	2,442	5,000
139	Recorder Group	0	0	0	300
140	Total Music Expenses	83,012	83,828	(816)	71,795
141	Parish Property Expenses:				
142	Parish Property Insurance	16,936	16,000	936	18,894
143	Parish Property Taxes	32,533	3,600	28,933	3,600
144	Parish Property Repairs & Maintenance	5,760	4,500	1,260	4,500
145	Parish Trash Removal	2,960	2,500	460	2,500
146	Parish Utilities	16,113	14,000	2,113	14,000
147	Parish Contract Facility Maintenance	23,750	23,218	532	25,000
148	Parish Replacements	4,199	1,000	3,199	1,000
149	Interest Expense - Capital Campaign Loan	0	0	0	25,239
150	Parish Building & Grounds Mandatory and Periodic	20,477	21,900	(1,423)	18,900
151	Total Parish Property Expenses	122,727	86,718	36,009	113,633
152	Transfers/Adjustments to Special Funds				
153	Special Repairs Fund	0		0	
154					
155	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	1,042,442	992,873	49,570	1,033,911
156	NET CHURCH SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(61,558)	(71)	(61,488)	(29,900)
157					
158	SCHEDULE OF CASH ASSETS:	Opening Bal		Ending Bal	
159	Cash - Checking Accounts	489,762		287,629	
160	Cash - Savings Accounts	6,795		6,795	
161	Investments @ Market	1,580,932		1,208,589	
162	Total Cash & Investments	2,077,489		1,503,012	

OUR MISSION

St. Cross Episcopal Church is a dynamic spiritual home where all are welcome. We celebrate, explore and share God's love through worship, study, and service.

VISION

A community transformed through the Holy Spirit

CORE VALUES

Enjoy a casual atmosphere with a traditional setting



Nurture spiritual development of all generations



Express Christ's love through hospitality and play



Glorify God through serving others



A Sacred Space to be you