

APRIL 2018



St. Cross  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Crossroads

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



4

JEWELRY SALE

5

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

6

SOUTH SUDAN

## Lent into Easter / Darkness into Light

by Rev. Rachel

On Ash Wednesday every year we are all called into a Holy Lent. This time of forty days has likely looked different for all of us this year. Some I am sure have taken to fasting, others to cleaning out, some to cleaning up, and many to find deeper connections to God along the way. Granted, I am the priest, but I have believed LONG before my ordination that Easter is different when you have participated in Lent. Easter happens for all of us, no matter what, but there is that extra thankfulness, extra joy, extra ray of light when we shout "Alle---"

ooops, not Easter yet.

Maybe this wasn't a year for you to dive deeply into Lent. Maybe you had enough on your plate that getting out of bed was about all you could handle. That is certainly understandable and a reality in many of our lives. And if this has been the case, then I am going to recommend a dose of Holy Week. Give yourself the gift of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and even that small quiet service on Holy Saturday. In the busy-ness of our lives, in our obligations, meetings, practices, clubs, family, and friends, I cannot urge you strongly enough to take time on these three days and come to church (any church if you can't make it to St. Cross). Take that time to be with God, to strengthen your relationship, to hear the story again (which if you want to know more about that you can listen online to the sermon from 3/11). Lent isn't over yet and you can still get on the



Lent train, as it were.

And even if you skipped all of Lent, as I said, the joy of the Jesus' resurrection will be there and waiting for us on Easter morning, amidst the brunch and bunnies is the deeper story of our salvation. Jesus died for us, and rose again so that we may never

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### SUNDAY

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
10:00 AM Choral Eucharist

### WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM Centering Prayer  
7:00 PM Holy Eucharist

## CLERGY

### RECTOR

The Rev. Dr. Rachel A. Nyback

### ASSOCIATES

The Rev. William Stanley  
Pastoral Care

The Rev. Robin Denney  
Christian Formation

### PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

The Rev. Cn. Robert Cornner

### DEACON

The Rev. Patti Angelo

### RECTOR EMERITUS

The Rev. Cn. Dr. Paul D. Lawson

St. Cross Episcopal Church  
1818 Monterey Boulevard  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254  
310-376-8989  
info@stcross.org

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## WEEKLY EVENTS

### MONDAY

10 AM: Listening Hearts  
1 PM: Staff Meeting  
1 PM: History Committee \*  
4 PM: Temple Shalom  
7 PM: Tai Chi  
7 PM: EfM

### TUESDAY

9:53 AM: Sewing Group

### WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM: Centering Prayer  
9 AM: Women's Bible Study  
5:45 PM: Men's Bible Study  
7 PM: Holy Eucharist

### THURSDAY

6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 PM: Choir Rehearsal

### FRIDAY - Office Closed

11 AM: Sociable Seniors \*\*

\* 2nd and 4th Monday

\*\* 2nd and 4th Friday

### WEEKLY 12-STEP MEETINGS

Sun: AA 7 PM

Mon: Al-Anon 7 AM  
CODA 7:30 PM

Tue: Serenity 7 PM

Wed: Al-Anon 7 AM  
CEA 7:30 PM

Thu: Al-Anon 12 Noon

Fri: AA 8 PM

Sat: Al-Anon 10 AM

More info: (310) 376-8989 or  
info@stcross.org

# April 2018 Calendar

4/01: Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 AM  
4/01: Easter Brunch—Between Services  
4/01: Easter Service at 10 AM  
4/02: Office Closed  
4/05: Neighbor to Neighbor, 4 PM  
4/08: The Upper Room, 5-7 PM—See Page 5  
4/08: OSL Healing Service, 5 PM  
4/13: Sociable Seniors Trip to NY Deli  
4/15: Endowment Committee, 9 AM  
4/21: Habitat Build Day—See Page 7  
4/24: Vestry Meeting, 7 PM  
4/25: Prayer Shawl Guild, 6 PM  
4/25: Laundry Love, 7 PM, Clean Scene Laundry  
4/27: Sociable Seniors, 11 AM  
4/27-29: St. Cross Women's Retreat  
4/29: Visit from Bishop Taylor

## Parking on Easter Sunday

A little PSA: We know parking is tough on Easter. Two thoughts to make it easier. 1) there is ALWAYS parking at the 6:30 am service and we will have some pretty amazing baptisms happening at that service also...and you are first in line for brunch goodies.

2) Lyft, Uber, bike, carpool to the brunch and 10 am service - then you don't have to worry about parking!

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, April 1!



**Easter Holy Eucharist with Brass**  
**Sunday, April 1 - 6:30 AM and 10 AM**  
**Easter Brunch at 8 AM**

## ST. CROSS History

Q.

In how many windows can you find sheep? And how many sheep are there all together in the windows?

Answer on page 6



## DARKNESS INTO LIGHT FROM PAGE 1

die. Come and be with your church community. Celebrate this most glorious of seasons with us and be ready to shout "Alle--"(oops, almost did it again) with all of your heart on Easter morning.

Rachel+



### Flowering of the Cross

Remember to bring flowers on Sunday April 8, for the flowering of the cross at both the 8am and 10am services!

Everyone is welcome to help decorate the cross with flowers following communion at each service.

### Bishop Taylor Official Visit to St. Cross 4/29

We are excited to welcome the Rt. Rev. John H. Taylor for his official visit with St. Cross on Sunday, April 29 at both services.

At the later service he will do confirmations, re-affirmations and receptions. We hope that everyone will be here to welcome Bishop Taylor to St. Cross and to celebrate with those who are confirming their faith.



## Ministry Notes

**Blood Drive Coming 6/3: Sign up today!** If you donate blood no later than April 8th you are eligible for our drive. Visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and type in StCrossHermosa in the search field. You can also contact Kathy Gonzalez at (310) 937-9842 or [kbgonzalez@aol.com](mailto:kbgonzalez@aol.com) for assistance. A pint collected can save up to three lives, and St. Cross helps between 75 - 90 lives at every drive!

**Sociable Seniors** - This active, dynamic group meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from mid-September through early June. We have a trip to NY Deli in Torrance on coming on April 13 and a trip on May 25 to the Nixon Library. If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about Sociable Seniors, please contact Rev. Will ([wstanley@stcross.org](mailto:wstanley@stcross.org)).

*From St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 17*





# How We Worship: Decisions, Decisions

In a recent adult education class Rev. Bob talked about how each liturgical season of the church year has a different way of addressing atonement (forgiveness for sin). He further encouraged the members of the class to pay attention throughout the coming year and seek out the different shades of theology which are presented season-by-season. This raises the question about how our liturgies (church services) are put together in a church where how we pray shapes what we believe.

The clergy and staff gather to plan each seasonal liturgy and to choose the music. We strive to keep what is familiar and foundational to our theology, such as the order of the service. And at the same time, we want to be sure that we are incorporating new pieces of liturgy as they become available.

We most commonly use the Book of Common Prayer and supplemental materials called Enriching Our Worship which have been released since the last prayer book. Then we sometimes find prayers in other texts from around the Anglican communion. For example, the invitation to communion, “this is the feast of the Lamb...” comes from a Scottish prayer book. Any changes outside of the Episcopal Church’s approved liturgies must have the approval of our bishop, which is what we do when we “color outside the lines,” if you will.

Some of the changes are noticeable as the season changes, such as a new Eucharistic prayer. And some the changes are subtle. For example we have been using an updated form of the Nicene Creed for over ten years now, one where the Holy Spirit is referred to as a “Who” and not a “He” as the word for Spirit in both Hebrew and Greek is feminine. Another change you may have noticed in this current season is that when Abraham and Sarah are mentioned, sometimes Hagar has been added in also. The sentences that follow say, “Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness...” Hagar was delivered from slavery and sustained in the wilderness by God’s hand long before the Israelites. And yet her story is often untold.

As we learn more, as we understand better, as we

work to deeply embrace our full story, we have to pay attention to the story that we tell.. So pay attention as the liturgical seasons change. When you notice a difference ask yourself why that change may have happened. What does the change say about the season that we are in? And always know that you can ask a clergy person “why” if you are curious. Truly, liturgy is the work of the people. The words we say do matter, because what we say does indeed shape what we believe.



## Jewel of the South Bay

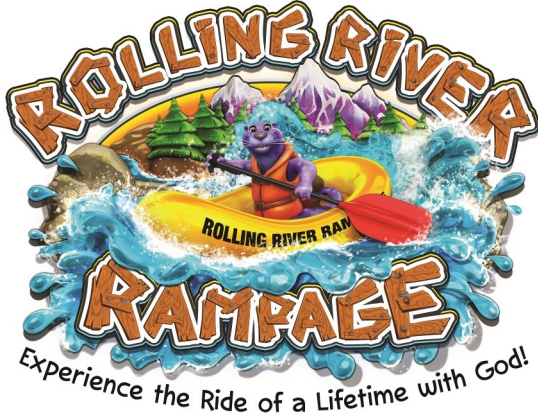
Do you think of St. Cross as the Jewel of the South Bay? Well, we are having a new and exciting event in April, and we think you’re going to love it! **Jewel of the South Bay** is a special jewelry sale which will take place on April 22nd and 29th in Parker Hall between 9 and 10 AM. Proceeds from the sale of this pre-owned, pre-loved jewelry will go to the St. Cross Capital Campaign.

**How can you take part?** First, we are looking for donations of jewelry for the sale between now and the sale dates. Of course, purchasing jewelry on the 22nd and 29th is a great way to take part!

**Demonstration Days:** On April 8th and 15th, our Jewel of the South Bay Ambassador will wear pieces of jewelry all around campus and make her way to Parker Hall. These demonstrations will take place from 9-10 AM on those dates.

Have questions? Want to donate pieces for the sale? Contact Elfreda Pon at [elfredapon@aol.com](mailto:elfredapon@aol.com).

# Vacation Bible School – Rolling River Rampage!



**July 16-20, 9 AM—Noon**

**Kick-off Event and Open House 7/15 from 11:30 AM—1:30 PM**

**VBS Beach Mass 7/22 at 10 AM (22nd Street and The Strand)**

Registration is now open! Participants “rafters,” and youth volunteers “guides,” should be registered at [www.stcross.org/VBS](http://www.stcross.org/VBS).

Rafters and guides, get ready for the experience of a lifetime, with God!

Our friend, Romper the Otter will help us, as we encounter exciting Bible stories, Explore God's promises to us, and discover ways to serve God and others. Each day we will learn songs, play games, do crafts, activities, and science experiments!

## Parents’ Group—Visioning

If you are a parent at St. Cross, we would like your feedback on parent support and family-oriented activities at St. Cross! Our parents’ ministry, St. Clare’s Community of Parents, has traditionally been in charge of providing opportunities for parents to connect and participate in child-friendly family events. We would like to re-vision this group and need your help!

Are there any family or parent support activities or services that you’d like to see at St. Cross? We will meet on Sunday, April 8, 9-10 am in Room 5 to discuss the future of the group and how we can best serve families at the church. Light refreshments will be served.

Also please feel free to speak directly with Rev. Robin with suggestions, or contact Jeanne Ogar at [genie2187@gmail.com](mailto:genie2187@gmail.com) for more information.



## The Upper Room

**Simulation Game—4/8 from 5-7 PM**

The Upper Room (youth group for 6th-12th grade), will be meeting upstairs in Clark Hall. This month we will be playing a simulation game to learn about the lifestyle of subsistence farmers in West Africa. We will be sampling Liberian food for supper!

**Save the Date:**

**May 6** – Upper Room will be replaced by the Senior to Senior dinner for J2A and CNC, while Rite 13 will have an outing to the movies or bowling

**June 3** – Upper Room Beach Party (meet at the church, and we will walk down to the beach together).





# Support for South Sudan

By Rev. Robin

Nine years ago, I moved to South Sudan as a missionary of the Episcopal Church. I worked for the Archbishop's office as the agricultural consultant, and started an agricultural department which ran pilot farms and trained farmers in sustainable techniques. I learned far more than I ever taught. Most of all, I learned a deep love for the Gospel, and saw how life-changing the power of Christ can be... empowering the people of God to do great things, forgive their enemies, and work tirelessly for peace. It was the clergy who I knew in South Sudan who inspired me to become a priest.

South Sudan is the youngest country in the world; it will be seven years old in July. It is also the least developed nation and has been suffering from a conflict for the last four years, which has displaced approximately a third of the nation's population and, along with drought, has contributed to a state of crisis related to food. There is currently a cease fire, but a lasting peace has not yet been achieved. The Episcopal Church of South Sudan, which is the second largest Christian denomination (behind Roman Catholic), provides much needed support, schools, clinics, and aid distribution, as well as working throughout the country to bring peace.

I will be traveling to South Sudan at the end of April for the installation of the new Archbishop of South Sudan, Justin Badi Arama. It is normally nearly impossible to mail or ship anything to South Sudan, so my visit provides the opportunity to bring some items that can support the work of the national church office there. I plan to bring solar powered lights, which also serve as a charging source for cell phones, and a solar powered battery strong enough to charge a laptop, as well as support for the life-saving and peace-building work of the church.

If you are interested in contributing to these gifts, send a contribution to St. Cross Memo: Rev. Robin's Discretionary Fund, before April 10.



## ST. CROSS *History*

*From page 2*

@.

You can find sheep in 5 windows, and there are 14 sheep altogether.



# Habitat for Humanity Build Day 4/21

Our next Habitat for Humanity build date is set for Saturday, April 21st, 2018. This will be St Cross's first of two build days in 2018. The project will be on a new four-unit construction site in Long Beach and by April should be in the final stages of construction. No construction experience is required and any tools you need that day will be supplied by the Habitat for Humanity crew. The only other requirements are that everyone come prepared to have fun and work hard. We are looking for builder volunteers (16 years or older), food/snack support, financial donations and prayers. Please mark your calendars and see John Cheslick or Dan Wilson at the Habitat for Humanity table in Parker Hall through April 15 to sign up. We'd love to make this another great parish-wide event!!

This is a perfect fit for our congregation at St Cross! After all, that's what we are good at ... BUILDING COMMUNITY! John and Dan will look forward to speaking with you over the next several weeks about how you can get involved.



## Parish Life

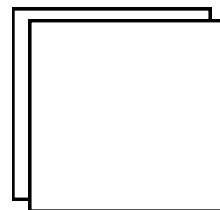
Parish Life, St. Patrick's Day  
Follow at [instagram.com/stcrosshermosa](https://www.instagram.com/stcrosshermosa)





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First Class Mail



## Easter Sunday

Join in Celebration April 1st!

Sunrise Service with Brass  
6:30 AM

Brunch  
8 AM

Holy Eucharist with Brass  
10 AM

*Special thanks to the volunteers  
whose generous gifts of time and talent make this  
newsletter possible.*

310-376-8989 Phone | 310-379-7389 Fax  
310-561-2444 Pastoral Emergency

Trudy: [info@stcross.org](mailto:info@stcross.org)  
Rachel: [Rnyback@stcross.org](mailto:Rnyback@stcross.org)  
Will: [wstanley@stcross.org](mailto:wstanley@stcross.org)  
Robin: [rdenney@stcross.org](mailto:rdenney@stcross.org)  
Patti: [pangelo@stcross.org](mailto:pangelo@stcross.org)  
Cameron: [cjohnson@stcross.org](mailto:cjohnson@stcross.org)  
David: [facilities@stcross.org](mailto:facilities@stcross.org)  
Merrill: [connect@stcross.org](mailto:connect@stcross.org)  
Bookkeeper: [bookkeeper@stcross.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stcross.org)

### CHURCH STAFF

Trudy Bush—Office Administrator  
Judi Kelly—Bookkeeper  
John Tveit—Choirmaster and Organist  
Merrill Whatley—Communications Coordinator  
David Dawson—Facilities Manager  
Cameron Johnson—Connection Coordinator