

AUGUST 2019



St. Cross
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Crossroads

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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ST. CROSS SOFTBALL

Continuing On From... Lent?

REV. RACHEL

Wait! Lent ended months ago. But I would be curious to know how many of you took on the habit of meditating even if for a few minutes a day. This was the Lenten discipline that the Vestry agreed to as a group.

Some people I know tried it and fell asleep. That is OK. It happens. Others tried it and found that it truly shifted their attitude, outlook and perception of the world around them.

At St. Cross Vestry continues to prepare to engage the parish in dreaming our next Big Dream, I would encourage all of us to try this on once again. Listening is an important part of the dreaming process for a church. We all have something to

say, but we also have to listen, appreciate perspectives different from our own, pray for God's guiding wisdom. All of this is easier to do if we have calm and peace in our lives. Enter daily meditation. 3 minutes, 5 minutes, 20 minutes. In the morning, in a waiting room, in the evening. Just find a time to be quiet with God and listen. I continue to pray for God's wisdom for all of us as we prepare for a time of parish discernment.

- Rev. Rachel+



Who is Texting Me?

Texts and emails you can safely ignore.

Have you received an email or a text message appearing to be from Rev. Rachel or others at the church, but something seems a little off?

A common scam that is making the rounds in churches these days is for someone to create a somewhat legitimate-looking email address, to claim to be a clergyperson and to ask for desperately-needed, immediate help. A new twist on this scam is to text these requests from an unknown number.

MORE ON PAGE 3

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. Robin Denney
Christian Formation

The Rev. Nathan Biornstad
Pastoral Care

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

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

* 2nd and 4th Monday

WEEKLY 12-STEP MEETINGS

Sun: AA 7:30 PM

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

Tue: Serenity 7 PM

Wed: Al-Anon 7 AM
OCA 5:30 PM
CEA-HOW 7:30 PM

Thu: Al-Anon 12 Noon
OA 6 PM

Fri: AA 8 PM

Sat: Al-Anon 10 AM

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

August Calendar Highlights

8/01: Neighbor to Neighbor
8/04: Rev. Robin's Last Sunday
8/10: Peace & Justice Movie Night
8/11: Welcome Rev. Stephen Smith
8/16: St. Cross Book Club
8/18: Beach Mass, 22nd & Strand
8/27: Vestry Meeting
8/27: Folding of *Crossroads*
8/28: Prayer Shawl Guild, 6 PM
8/28: Laundry Love

Beach Mass with Baptisms
August 18, 10 AM
22nd Street and the Strand

Alpha & Omega

Married

Megan Difley and Andy Simon
(see photos throughout this issue!)

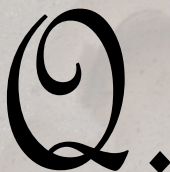
Born

Emily Florence Moon
Born June 22, 2019



A wonderful summer wedding! Congrats to Megan and Andy

ST. CROSS History



How many and where has she performed weddings off-site?

In the Episcopal Church weddings are generally performed in the church. However, they may take place at other venues. Since Rev. Rachel has been a priest at St. Cross there have been forty-one weddings officiated by our clergy and guest clergy. Rev. Rachel has officiated at twenty-two of those weddings with most of them taking place right here at St. Cross.

EMAILS AND TEXTS

FROM PAGE 1

The scammers usually get the target's phone numbers and email addresses from announcements put out by the church, usually online. The scammers are counting on you not to check the email address and to believe Rev. Rachel or another staff person is sending you a request for gift cards or something similar.

Aside from the fact that none of our clergy or staff will never make such a request, you can always double-check the authenticity of any message by checking the email address or phone number from which it came to see if it is legitimate, or you can contact the supposed sender at the email address or phone number with which you are familiar.

Episco-speak: The Gospel

When we are hearing the gospel, why does the Gospel reader process down to where the congregation is sitting? The Gospel reader, traditionally

the Deacon (although it may also be a priest), reads the Gospel amid the congregation to symbolize how Jesus came into our world and shared the good news of God among us. You may have also noticed that the Gospel Reader processes down the aisle of the church with the Gospel Book raised above their head. The Gospel is held high not only so everyone can see it, but also as a physical symbol – to exalt and show honor to the Jesus' ministry. At the 10am service, the acolytes (those that assist with the service) often carry candles which symbolizes God's incarnation as the light of the world made manifest in Jesus.

You may have also noticed that it is our custom and tradition to both stand up and face the Gospel Book. We stand as a sign of both respect and to give our full attention to the reading.

Email questions to nbiornstad@stcross.org!



Ministry Updates

Summer Breakfasts

Our fourth Summer Breakfast is on **August 4** (hosted by the Altar Guild). Thanks to Judy Soper and to the host ministry groups for putting these summer breakfasts on!



August Softball Games

August 3: 9:50 AM

August 10: 12:50 PM

August 17: 3:30 PM *

*Championship Game

All games at McMaster Park in Torrance!

Sign up for our weekly email at stcross.org!

Final Directory Photo Day for This Year is Sunday, September 8—Mark the Date!

Directory Photo Days

A Note from Rev. Robin

People of St. Cross, it has truly been an honor to serve as your priest for Christian Formation these past two years! You all have invited me into your community, into your lives, and into your hearts. You have shared with me your journeys and your faith. Each of you from the youngest to the oldest has taught me something about God. You made me the priest that I am today, and for that I cannot thank you enough! When I left seminary I was looking for a church where I could go for two years to learn and to grow together in ministry. I was so thankful to have the opportunity to be with you, and to work with Rev. Rachel! While I know that two years seems short, it has been the perfect time to prepare me for the next step in my journey, which I will let you know about soon! You will all remain in my prayers, and I am so excited that my friend, Rev. Stephen, will be joining you soon! He is an amazing and talented priest, and I know that you all will continue to learn and grow together.



God's blessing, hope, and peace, be with you this day and always!

- Rev. Robin+



Blessing the Backpacks

Remember to bring your backpacks and school bags to church on Sunday September 1, at 10 AM for a special blessing!

VBS Participants: wear your To Mars and Beyond VBS T-shirts! The VBS participants and leaders will be singing our VBS song during the service.

Important Upcoming Dates

Children's Chapel in the Summer

June 16 through September 8, there will be no Sunday School during the 9am hour. There will be Children's Chapel during the 10am service.

Children come to the service with their parents, and then leave for Children's chapel shortly after the service starts..

St. Cross Day

St. Cross day will be celebrated on September 15, 2019. This will be the start of Sunday School and Adult Education, during the 9am hour for the 2019-2020 program year.

Summertime Means St. Cross Softball!



Dodgers (2-0) Streak to the Head of the Pack With 2 Wins

This year there will only be one team (Dodgers) as we are running out of ballplayers. This will be our 27th year in the South Bay Church Athlete League (SBCAL) Co-Ed Softball. They won their first two games by 17 – 4 and 16 – 1 scores.

McCue, Hall, Hoffman, Barnes, Ogar Lead Dodgers to 18-3 Win

The Dodgers (3-0) continued their offensive power by beating NOVA 3 18-3. A total of 24 Hits, 8 going for extra bases fueled the offense. Sean McCue with 4 Hits, 4 Runs, 2 Doubles; Doug Hall with 4 Hits, 3 Doubles, 3 RBIs, 4 Runs; Autumn Hoffman with 3 Hits, 3 RBIs; newcomer Seth Barnes with 3 Hits, Home Run, 4 RBIs; and newcomer Clement Ogar with 2 Hits, Home Run, 2 RBIs, 2 Runs combined for 16 Hits. Other 2-Hit games by Bruce Difley with a Double, 2 RBIs; Jim Sullivan; and Megan Difley added to the offense. This was Seth and Sam Barnes plus

Clement Ogar's first game – welcome aboard. Sean (3-0) notched his 3rd win on the hump.

O'Grady, Ogar Combine for 10 Hits in 11-3 Victory

Dodgers (4-0) continue in 1st place with 11-3 Win and supported by 10 Hits from Bruce Difley (.846) with 4 Hits, 3 Runs, 2 RBIs; Jamie O'Grady (.750) with 3 Hits, 3 RBIs, Double; and Clement Ogar (.833) with 3 Hits led the offense. Two-Hit games by Doug Hall (.846) with 2 Runs; Ellie Weissenberg (.625) and Madi Weissenberg (.667) also fueled the offense. This was Madi's first game and both Weissenberg girls are the new speedsters for the team. Sean (4-0) notched the win from the mound.

In Case of Emergency: Run Hide Fight

Recently our ushers and Sunday School teachers met with a Hermosa Beach Police Officer to talk about what to do if someone exhibiting dangerous, erratic behavior or someone with a weapon were to enter the church. We wanted to pass along the very basics — which by now all children in school can tell you. If there is a physical threat the rule is **RUN, HIDE, FIGHT**.

The best alternative is always to run. If you cannot run, find the best place to hide and if possible barricade yourself in somewhere. The last alternative is to fight. We do not expect any usher or parishioner to put their life in danger. We also know that should such a dreadful circumstance ever happen, we will all do our best to care for ourselves and one another as we all seek to get to a safe location. Once in a safe place anyone and everyone can call 911.

When Re. Stephen Smith arrives we will be speaking with him and with Sunday School teachers in case they have further thoughts or ideas or if they want more information.

Pastoral Care Corner

Many of you have probably noticed that there are basically two types of life altering changes: changes that happen to us and changes that we decide to initiate. For most of us, changes that are thrust upon us are our least favorite.

We often have little control on the change itself, and we can feel powerless about its impact and outcome in our lives. Usually these out-of-our-control changes leave us groping for new ways to cope, a heightened perspective on the human cruelty or the tenacious aging process, and, sometimes, a theological reckoning of how God operates in our world. Most of these thrust-upon-us-changes are, at some level, heart breaking.

Yet Jesus promises us something unexpected. Not an escape from our pain, heartache, or new reality, but rather Jesus promises God's presence. Jesus promises to be with us (Matthew 28.20). We will never be alone. The presence of God will not be chased away by a change in our circumstances, our health, or a horrific tragedy. Jesus promises us the divine presence of God Almighty always.

An invitation: If you would like to meet together, I would be delighted to take you out for frozen yogurt, ice cream or your favorite non-dairy equivalent! Email me anytime at nbjornstad@stcross.org.

-Rev. Nathan Bjornstad



From page 2

ST. CROSS
History @.

Rev. Rachel has performed nine weddings away from St. Cross at such places as a hotel, community center, private home, another church, and Yosemite.

FYI: her first wedding was Jennifer Brownlie's here at St. Cross and her most recent one was Megan Difley's at Yosemite.

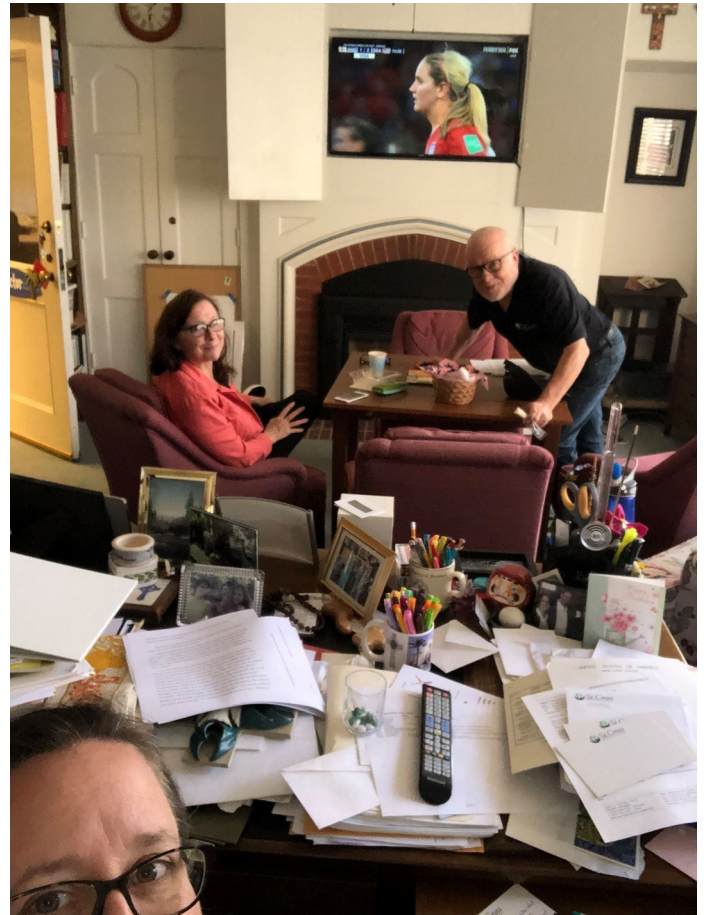
St. Cross Social!

World Cup Viewing

A Wonderful Wedding

Celebratory Dancing

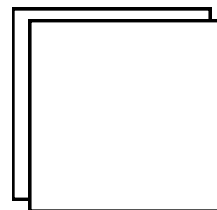
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1818 Monterey Boulevard · Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 · 310.376.8989 · www.stcross.org

First Class Mail



Beach Mass with Baptisms

Join us on the Beach at 10 AM
on Sunday, August 18!

We meet at
22nd and the Strand.

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

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