

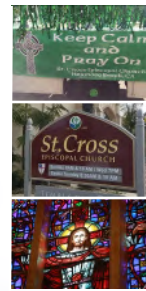
FEBRUARY 2019



St. Cross
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Crossroads

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



3

VOLUNTEER FOR FUN

4

BUILDING UPDATES

7

MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH

Annual Meeting

REV. RACHEL

Most people take an examen of their year toward the end of December. In the church the New Year is the first week of Advent (late November, early December), yet we don't have our annual meeting until the end of January, and the Vestry goals for the year aren't set until a month later at their retreat. All that said, it is January when we all reflect on what we have done and what we have left undone in our ministries. It is also a time when we begin to plan and dream about what

we hope to accomplish in the year ahead.

The Annual Meeting is important for all church members to attend as it is where you see who is elected to represent you, make decisions on your behalf for the good of our church community, elect representatives to our diocesan convention in the fall, and hear reports from the rector and the treasurer. These may not seem like pressing matters;

however, if you are a member of St. Cross, if you love the worship, mission, and ministry that we do here, being at the meeting is part of participating in the wider life of our parish.

If you cannot attend, I do ask that you look for our Annual Report online (it will be posted as soon as it's finished) so that you can get a glimpse of the whole life of St. Cross, not just the areas you enjoy. The Rector's Report and Senior Warden's report outline the larger events of the year. The Treasurer's Report reviews

the budget from the past year and outlines the Vestry-approved budget for the coming year. Again, this is nuts and bolts, but it is the nuts and bolts that make St. Cross work.

So come and join us on Jan 27 for our Annual Meet-



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
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info@stcross.org

MORE ON PAGE 3

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

February 2019 Calendar

2/02: Bishop's Ball
2/07: Neighbor to Neighbor
2/12: Where Do We Go from Here? Also 2/19, 2/26
2/14: Sociable Seniors
2/18: Office Closed
2/22-24: Vestry Retreat
2/26: Folding of *Crossroads*
2/26: Vestry Meeting
2/27: Prayer Shawl Guild
2/27: Laundry Love
2/28: Sociable Seniors

Upcoming:

Ash Wednesday March 6

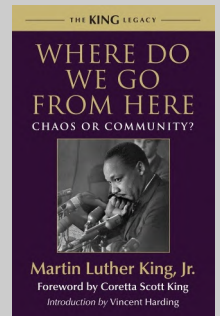
View full calendar at stcross.org

Where Do We Go From Here?

Tuesdays 2/12, 2/19, 2/26

6:30-8:30 PM

The Peace and Justice Community of St. Cross Episcopal Church invites you to a study of the final book written by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *Where Do We Go From Here: Community or Chaos* (1968). It is highly relevant to today's world. Please join us for what promises to be an enlightening discussion.



From the St. Cross Christmas Eve Service

ST. CROSS

History

Valentine's Day is this month, and love is in the air!

Q.

Which St. Cross couple married at St. Cross has been married the longest? Which couple just got married at St. Cross?

Answer on page 6

ANNUAL MEETING

FROM PAGE 1

ing in the parish hall. We promise to have plenty of coffee and more than enough donuts for everyone to enjoy. And if you have questions about what you read, you know where you can find me. I am happy to answer any and all questions.

Peace, **Rev. Rachel+**

WHO/WHAT IS THE VESTRY?

The vestry is the governing board of a parish in the Episcopal Church. This decision-making body consists of the rector (Rev. Rachel) and elected lay representatives, which include a senior and a junior warden. The senior warden, also known as the rector's warden, is chosen by the rector. In the rector's absence, they are in charge.

The junior warden, also known as the people's warden, is elected from the among the vestry by vestry peers. Traditionally, the junior warden oversees the physical maintenance of the church buildings and properties, but that is not the case at St. Cross.

The vestry's duties include calling the rector, approving the church budget, making policy and approving expenditures. At St Cross, we have a 12-person vestry, where 3 members are elected to a 3 year term at the annual meeting (usually held at the end of January).

The vesting room, found next to the sacristy, in our main sanctuary building, does not have a direct association with the vestry. The vesting room is where the vestments are stored and a place for the clergy to put on their priestly garments before each service.

BONUS EPISCO-SPEAK from the editor: Tune in next month to learn what Rev. Rachel means by "examen" in the lead article!



Volunteer for FUN!

Calling all fun-lovers! Two favorite St. Cross events are happening in March, and we need YOU to make them happen!

Please save the dates and let us know if you'll be able to help:

**Tuesday, March 5th
6:00- 8:30 PM
Mardi Gras Party**

Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras... We need kitchen help, decorators, ticket sellers, bartenders, and more!



**Saturday, March 16th
8:00 AM-12:30 PM
Hermosa Beach St.
Patrick's Day Parade**

We need float decorators and parade participants -- you can walk or ride!

Email Cameron Johnson at cjohnson@stcross.org to volunteer. Don't miss the fun!



Vestry Candidates

At the Annual Meeting on January 27, St. Cross will elect new members to the Vestry. The candidates this year are Ann Rogerson, Steve Pringle, Courtney Shott and James Wikkramatilleke. Learn more about each candidate on our website, and if you are reading this before January 27, be sure to come to the Annual Meeting following the 10 AM service on the last Sunday in January to vote and to hear from all of the ministries of St. Cross.

Faith Formation in Service

This year at St. Cross in the Christian Formation department, we are exploring the intersection between faith and service by incorporating more service opportunities into our formation programs. The middle school and high school youth participated in a three-day service weekend in January where they explored the themes of homelessness, civil rights, and immigration through the lens of service and witness to the stories of others. Our upper high school class will be going on a mission trip this summer to El Salvador, where they will be students of a program along with Salvadoran youth, to learn about how to be of service in their own communities. When the youth return from this program, I hope the adults of the parish will take the time to hear their stories, and consider how God may be speaking to all members of the parish through these stories. We are also encouraging families and children to engage in service, through our service day to Abundant table and hopefully more to come. St. Cross has a rich tradition of service and has robust service ministries like Laundry Love, Family Promise, and Neighbor to Neighbor. It is my hope that as more people engage in different types of service, conversation among members of the parish can deepen as we explore with each other how service work impacts our hearts and our faith, and how God is at work in our lives.



VBS—Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School this year will take place July 15-19, 2019.

Bishop's Ball

For High School Students. February 2, 2019.
Departing St. Cross at 5pm.

Building Project Updates

The rotted edge of the roofline of the education building has been replaced and re-tiled. The walls of the building have been painted and we are working on trim. All new gutters have been installed. We are also working on repairing all of the windows on the west side so that they open and close easily. The railings are being replaced. After the railings are completed they will work on recoating the deck. We are still working on built-ins for the classrooms as they came in far over cost and we are looking into alternatives.

The façade of the church needed extensive re-bricking, which is the last section to need work. Before painting, they are finding the right texturing so that the re-bricked parts match the texture of the rest of the building. Once that is finished, the

church wall painting will also be completed, and trim work is in process. All new gutters have been installed here also.

In February, the stained glass window artisans will be here to work on the church windows and the windows in the rector's office and the guild room.

The kitchen has been on hold as we do not want to go over-budget for the entire work taking place, and due to structural issues on the church and education building we have had higher than normal change orders. There WILL still be work in the kitchen. Dave Dawson, our facilities manager, is talking with principal people who work in the kitchen for input as to priorities. The Vestry will be looking at this at the January meeting.

Giving Tree Report—Thank You St. Cross!

We on the Giving Tree team are all very grateful for another incredibly successful year of providing gifts and gift cards to deserving families in the South Bay and the greater Los Angeles area. In 2018 we touched the lives of 39 families by giving each of the 107 children at least two presents each. In addition, we were able to present each family with a \$75 grocery gift card as well as a \$25 Target gift card.

Inevitably each year there always seems to be one story that stands out amongst all the others in terms of need or appreciation or general inspiration. This year the source of greatest surprise to all of us came in the form of \$1300 donated to Giving Tree by a St. Cross parishioner. This woman was married at St. Cross and teaches in Redondo Beach. She hosts a yearly Christmas party at which everyone donates money to be distributed to a local charity. This year the intended recipient fell through, so she reached out to us. When we told her of our partnership with her school district she was thrilled as she knew the need. She told us of her efforts to buy students jackets and necessities when they need them. Through her generosity and kindness, we were able to give each of our Redondo families a \$100 Target gift card, with \$300 going to the one teenage boy who goes to school full time and also works and takes care of his sick mom as well. We could not have asked for a greater blessing and were thrilled to be able to pass it along to local families in need.

As always, we want to send a huge heartfelt thank you to everyone that helped to brighten so many lives this holiday season! - Amy Hanrahan, Bill Soper, Courtney Shott, Dana Thomas and Jennifer Salem



Parking Lot Safety

This is a reminder that we have many children on our campus on Sunday mornings, as well as Mondays in the afternoon, evening and during special events. Please show extreme caution while driving in the parking lot and stop at all posted signs. We are adding a stop sign to the inner parking lot where the covered crosswalk is. We have also thinned the bushes for better visibility.

More in Children, Youth and Family at St. Cross

Whole-Hearted Parenting Series

Rev. Rachel and Dr. Virginia Green are leading a series on "Whole-Hearted Parenting" for building resilience in children, youth, and families. It is based on Brene Brown's work. The sessions will be once a month through June, at 9 AM in room 4: Feb 10, March 10, April 7, May 5, and June 9.

Family Service Day 2/16

The family service day (all ages, children 6th grade and under must be accompanied by an adult) to Abundant Table in Ventura is Saturday, February 16 (if it rains, it will be rescheduled to Feb 23). We will meet at the church at 8 AM to carpool/caravan there. We will volun-

teer on the farm from 10-12, then have a Eucharist and picnic lunch, and return home by 3 PM. RSVP to Rev. Robin, rdenney@stcross.org.

Winter Snow Playdate Weekend

Family snow weekend is Saturday, February 16th - Monday, February 18th

Contact Sarah O'Grady ogradymama@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

It will take place at Pine Knot Ranch at Big Bear Lake. It is a very family-friendly facility with animals, hills to sled on, and a playground for kids.

Pastoral Care Corner

Whenever I return to my hometown of Portland, I anticipate, among other things, revisiting my favorite three restaurants. In many ways, it seems illogical to crave food from Oregon when there are many delicious and wonderful places to eat in LA, yet crave them I do.

I was recently thinking about what it means to hunger after God. What does it mean to desire more of God in our lives? How do we become hungry for God?

The interesting thing about hunger is that we don't decide to become hungry. We respond to hunger from our biological need for nutrients.

In many ways, I believe that spiritual hunger is similar. It is God who stirs in us a desire to seek our Creator. How we respond is up to us. Just like hunger pangs, we can do our best to ignore the rumblings of our innermost parts, but the desire for something more remains. I think that this longing for more of God in our lives is one of the best gifts that God gives us.

Have you noticed that in the relationships with our best friends and those that we love, there is often a feeling that we cannot get enough of being around them? I would encourage you to keep feeding your soul by spending time in Scripture, prayer, and being vulnerable with others. Our lives change and upgrade as we consistently encounter our God. God desires an ongoing relationship with us more than anything else. God hungers for us to spend time together.

If you would like to meet together, I would be delighted to take you out for coffee. Please contact me through the church office at 310.376.8989 or via email at nbjornstad@stcross.org.

-Rev. Nathan Bjornstad



Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation

It is the time of year again when the clergy lead a class through Lent and a few weeks beyond for those who would like to be confirmed, reaffirm their confirmation, or be received into the Episcopal Church. In short it is a class for anyone who would like to deepen their faith AND learn more about Episcopal views of scripture, liturgy, heaven and hell, and any other question you have. We will start the first Sunday of Lent, March 10 at 9 AM in Room 4 or 5, depending on the Sunday. Bring the questions you always wanted to ask, were too embarrassed to ask, or have never been answered to your satisfaction. We look forward to seeing you there!

ST. CROSS *History*

From page 2

@.

Longest: Glenda and Al Robsahm were married on June 30, 1956 by Fr. Parker.

Most recent: Amber Alarcon and Robert Carter were married by Rev. Rachel and Rabbi August under the chupah about three weeks ago on January 5, 2019.

The History Committee would love wedding pictures of couples married at St. Cross -- both from the former church as well as here on Monterey Blvd. You can give us a picture, send a digital copy to patsybrierley@gmail.com, or give us a picture to be copied and returned. We thank you in advance.

Music Director Search Update

The process for the search for a new music director was laid out in a weekly email. A committee followed a process that included promoting the position and then culling through resumes to decide who to interview via Skype. From that they narrowed to two candidate who will be auditioning the last Sunday of January and the first Sunday of February. The choir will be asked to give an evaluation of both candidates to the committee. From there the committee will make their recommendation and Rev. Rachel will make a decision and offer a contract to the candidate. We will announce our next Music Director as soon as we have a signed contract.

Parish Life

Follow at [instagram.com/stcrosshermosa](https://www.instagram.com/stcrosshermosa)



St. Cross Prayer Ministry

Perhaps some of you have noticed that we have not offered prayer in the chapel during the Sunday Eucharist since last spring. With Bruce and Helen Dolph's move to the desert and the Rev. Laurel Coote's anticipated departure, it was time to pause for a renewal of spirit. Over the past months, steps were undertaken to recruit and train new prayer ministers. Progress has been made and though still-ongoing we are excited to announce that in a month or two you can expect a return of this important ministry.

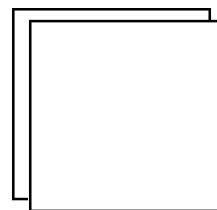
When it does return, we hope that those who need to pray will feel free to come into the chapel after communion. We all have worries from time to time. Soundness of body, mind and spirit occasionally eludes us. Life's inevitable disappointments can be hard to bear. Our God is with us in these moments and prayer reminds us of that. There are also times, and hopefully many such times, when we want to express our gratitude to God. You may find praying about any of these things with others will help you to better know God's nearness, concern, and amazing love for you. As always, be assured that prayer ministers will keep your prayer requests in the strictest confidence.

- Sr. Patricia Sarah



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First Class Mail



Family Activities

Whole-Hearted Parenting Series

Feb. 10

Family Service Day

Feb. 16

Winter Snow Playdate Weekend

Feb. 16-18

More on pages 4-5

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

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