

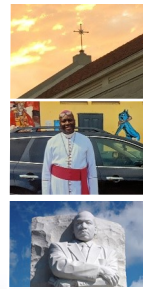
JANUARY 2019



St. Cross
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Crossroads

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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ANNUAL MEETING

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THANK YOU, ST. CROSS!

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YOUTH SERVICE WEEKEND

Bring a Light!

Around the time this edition of Crossroads is printed will be the shortest day of the year. As we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child we are literally living in more darkness than light. I acknowledge there are many kinds of darkness in the world around us: grief (including, for each of us personally, from John Tveit's death); families not getting along due to politics; the fact that we have humanitarian crisis not only at our border but also in Yemen where children are starving; the fact that, even when granted asylum in the United States, a person has many, many unforeseen hurdles to overcome.

In other words, there

are multiple reasons aside from the rotation of the earth around the sun that one may feel darkness creeping in.

And yet, and yet, this is the season when we don't celebrate the darkness, but we celebrate the LIGHT, Jesus, light of the world, light to the nations, light in our hearts being born.

Many of you know the French Christmas carol "Bring a Torch Jeanette, Isabella." This carol has some of this season spot on. *Bring a torch! Bring a torch to the cradle and run!* Bringing the light of Christ is exactly what we need to do in this season of darkness. Bring the light of Jesus's love to those in need. Bring the light of Jesus's forgiveness to those with whom we have broken relationship. Bring the light of Jesus's healing to the suffering and afflicted. Bring the light of Jesus's presence to those in grief.

What this carol has wrong is they go on to sing about being quiet so Jesus can sleep. I say do just the opposite. Bring the light of Christ, quickly, run, and be noisy about it if you have to. Be vocal about



REV. RACHEL

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

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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

January 2019 Calendar

1/01: New Year's Day-
Office Closed
1/03: Neighbor to Neighbor
1/06: The Epiphany
1/10: Sociable Seniors
1/12: COOP Holiday Party (p 5)
1/13: Newcomers' Café (see p 7)
1/19-21: Youth Service Weekend
More on Page 5
1/21: MLK, Jr. Day - Office Closed
1/22: Folding of *Crossroads*
1/22: Vestry Meeting
1/23: Prayer Shawl Guild
1/24: Sociable Seniors
1/27: Annual Meeting (see box)
1/30: Laundry Love

Annual Meeting Sunday, January 27

The Annual Meeting is when we all get together after church to talk about the prior year, to look at our budget and to elect new Vestry members. Mark your calendars and be ready to meet on the last Sunday of the month.

Be looking for new candidates up for election in the weekly emails between now and the meeting. If you don't subscribe to the weekly email, you can hop on-board here:

stcross.org/newsletter-signup/



From the St. Cross Christmas Pageant, 12/16

ST. CROSS History

Q

Consider just those who have been at St. Cross for 60 years or more. How many are there and who are they?

St. Cross has people who have been attending for seemingly forever, those who just came last Sunday, and those who fall somewhere in between. Sometimes you hear or are asked the question, "How long have you been coming to St. Cross?" You might wonder where you would fall in the line of current St. Cross members.

Answer on page 6

LIGHT

the love of God coming into the world. Be vocal about how God has changed your life. Be vocal about how we can help those most in need. As we celebrate Christmas and move into Epiphany, the season of light: bring the light, quickly and run!

Peace,
Rev. Rachel+

THANK YOU!

Speaking of carrying light into the world: here in the office, we've received wonderful thank-you notes to the Parish over the past couple of months that we are excited to share!

Pictured to the right are a collection of photos sent in by The Rev. Pat O'Reilly, Chair of the Program Group on Global Partnership of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, featuring a car that was donated to the Diocese of Guinea (that's Bishop Jacques Boston standing with the car in the lower-left photo). St. Cross, along with many others, donated money in order for the diocese to purchase the vehicle.



Here in the Los Angeles area, Habitat for Humanity is thankful to all in our congregation for monetary support as well as the labor and effort that members of our parish have put into our Parish Build Days (quick plug: the next Habitat Build Day is March 23 — contact the office for more information). We received a nice letter of thanks from Jennifer Wise, Senior Vice President of Resource Development of Habitat for Humanity Greater Los Angeles.

As a parish, let's keep carrying that light into the world!

FROM PAGE 1



Ministry Notes

What Is Neighbor to Neighbor?

Neighbor to Neighbor is an ecumenical outreach program where we prepare and serve a hot dinner for about 70 men, women and children. St Cross volunteers are joined by boys from Boy Scout Troop 849 in Manhattan Beach, and we meet at Journey South Bay.

This ministry meets the first Thursday of each month from. Journey South Bay is located at 2761 190th Street, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. 4 PM is meal prep time, 6 PM is when we serve the meals!

Volunteers from St. Cross buy, prepare, and serve dinner to people of all ages from the South Bay.

At Neighbor to Neighbor, we share God's love by showing the guests that they are truly cared for and about.

We are blessed to have such loyal, caring volunteers who staff the dinner each month. We would be happy to have you join us.

WHAT IS FIFTY SQUARED?

This past month, the two lovely couples you see to the left of this paragraph got together in celebration as each was marking fifty years of marriage!

On Sunday, December 16, we recognized both couples in church, saying a prayer for their shared anniversary.

Congratulations to Dave and Bitsy Lutton and to Carol and Ricardo Reznichak!



Big Pageant Thank-You!

Our epic Christmas Pageant this year was made possible by an amazing cast of committed youth and children, as well as so many awesome adults behind the scenes. Our team of three costume curators works year-round to care for and update costumes in our collection. They had the mammoth task of fitting and hemming 48 costumes this year! Our team of ten light and sound volunteers spent hours running cords, setting everything up, and planning for future improvements. Eight Sunday School teachers worked with our chorus to learn their songs, and two dozen parents helped with everything from supervising rehearsals to running the reception. Special thanks goes to **Candace Ford** who coordinated all the music this year, rehearsed the different groups, and made sure we had everything we needed. Congratulations to our youth director **Rylei Borden** for a well-run pageant. If you missed this year's pageant, we encourage you to come next year, and bring friends and neighbors!

(Also, see pages 2 and 7 for a few pictures!)



Building Project Updates

Education Building: The new support posts have been installed along the Education Building balcony. New railing will be installed, and the old railing will be temporarily installed until the new one is completed. Once these beams are installed, we hope to finish the work on the roof replacing the rotting wood and also the gutters. Installation of crown molding and repainting of most of the rooms has taken place. Most of the new windows have been installed. They are prepping for exterior painting which should begin soon. We are still waiting for soil samples from the engineers so we can pull permits for the elevator.

Organ: As you can tell from most Sundays, it gets better and better. Our builder continues to work with his team to tune what we have, and also make adjustments along the way. The ranks in the back of the church, in the loft, should be functional in the new year.

Church Building: Clearly, so much going on there. They have finished the rebricking and securing of brick on the office building. Rebricking and reinforcing has happened continues overall the church building. While we will have pockmarks on the front of the church building for Christmas and through the New Year, we are working to complete

this phase as quickly as possible. There was concern about the state of the wall of the facade and if the rose window needed extra support while we did this work. The contractor and engineers believe they have a workable situation, where extra scaffolding will not be need. We found issues with the small roof over the entrance where the roof wasn't shielding the building from water, but collecting it in a trough above the entrance. This will be reroofed, sealed, and hopefully will stop the water incursion around our main entrance.

Kitchen: We are closing in on a plan. Dave Dawson is reaching out to people who work in the kitchen to get feedback before we engage our contractor to complete any work in there.

Paint colors: They have been chosen by a committee who have built their own homes in the area, and appear to have the gift of choosing appropriate colors. The challenge with color is that always a group is content and another wonders why they made that decision, this is no matter the color chosen. We are going for Almond Latte on the church and parish hall, and a lighter shade on the education building. We will use a darker brown than we are using now for the trim. Feel free to tell Rev. Rachel how much you love or hate the committee choices.

“What Are You Doing for Others?”

Youth Service Weekend—January 19-21

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" This is the theme of our **Youth Service Weekend this month, January 19-21** (Middle School: Saturday and Sunday only, High School all three days).

We hope that the congregation will keep our youth in your prayers as they engage in this three-day service weekend. This innovative local mission trip is a joint project between St. Cross, St. Francis Palos Verdes, and St. Luke's Long Beach. The planning team has put together an immersive and transformative experience which will include service work, reflection, learning, and team building. Each day we will go in-depth into a different theme: housing and homelessness, civil rights, and immigration. The youth will be invited to examine their own assumptions, as well as the powerful role of perspective and narrative. They will be invited into the stories of others, as they seek not only to serve Christ in others, but to respect the dignity of every human being. Saturday will be spent in Long Beach, Sunday in Palos Verdes, and Monday will be a trip to San Diego, where we will visit a church with extensive immigration ministries and hike along the beach near the border. If your youth has not yet RSVP'd, contact Rev. Robin as soon as possible.



Family Service Day Coming on Feb. 16th



Youth and families will be going to the Abundant Table, on Saturday February 16, carpool departing 8am (meeting in Ventura at 10am). Abundant Table is a farm ministry of the Episcopal Church. We will be helping on the farm for a couple hours, getting a tour, and then will finish with a picnic and eucharist together. We should be back to St. Cross by 3pm.

All ages are welcome. Children 6th grade and under must be accompanied by an adult. Please RSVP to Rev. Robin rdenney@stcross.org

More in Children, Youth and Family at St. Cross

After-Christmas Party for Parents

Saturday, January 12th 5pm, Parker Hall

This is a potluck and funny white-elephant gift exchange. Child care is provided. RSVP to Sarah O'Grady at ogradymama@gmail.com.

Winter Snow Playdate Weekend

Saturday, February 16th - Monday, February 18th

If you are interested in participating in the family snow weekend, please contact Sarah O'Grady via email at ogradymama@gmail.com for information about booking accommodations.

Summer Save the Dates

J2A class, Pilgrimage to Scotland

To Scotland, everybody! **June 21-July 3**

Vacation Bible School

Always a blast, a wonderful experience for child participants and youth volunteers alike! **July 15-19**

CNC class, Global School Trip to El Salvador

A wonderful learning adventure! **July 20-27**

Questions about any of these? Contact Rev. Robin, rdenney@stcross.org.

Pastoral Care Corner

How many of us can recall New Year's Resolutions where, for whatever reason, we didn't follow through? How many of the same resolutions do we remake year after year?

The problem is not a desire to change. Some would argue that it is a lack of willpower, but I would disagree. Even the Apostle Paul found himself doing things that he didn't want to do (Romans 7.15). I think that should give all of us great hope!

One of the keys to keeping change and becoming a more holistic person of faith is extending grace to ourselves when we fail to fulfill our own hopes and expectations. When we stumble and fall in our goals, we need to build in ourselves the emotional tenacity to keep getting back up. To remind ourselves that this setback, this failure, does not define who we are.

Our core identity that is we are a beloved child of God. No setback, no failure can change our identity. And as we continue to lean into that identity and keep getting back up, our failures and setbacks don't define us. No, instead those things that might discourage us, like a series of failed New Year Resolutions, can instead inspire us to invite more of God into our lives through prayer and conversation. Our relationship with God is not based on performance, but rather upon our identity as children of God (1 John 3.1). And as children of God, we get to experience God's soul-affirming love – love abounding in joy and hope. A love that delights in us.

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



Alpha & Omega



In Memoriam

Reg Barks
John Tveit

Born

Bennett Hunt Friedland
*born to Erika Spitzer and
Zach Friedland*

Born

Bear Blockley
*born to Clay and
Hayley Blockley*

ST. CROSS History

From page 2



The St. Cross 60 Year Club numbers at least 28 members. They are Connie Schroer (1927), Mary Johnson (1937), Russ Lesser (1940), Pamela Barnes (1941), Barbara Moore (1943), John Van den Akker (1942), Glenda Robsahm (1946), Emma King (1946), Gene Hassan (1948), Stephen Parker (1949), Jean Mannings (1951), Caren Brownlie (1951), Priscilla Bacon Atwell (1951), Alison Edwards (1952), Linda Lapham (1953), Susie Christie (1953), Pati Johnson (1953), David Parker (1953), Gretchen Oberbeck (1953), Kathy Grasla Brannon (1954), Bob Cornner (1954), Vicki Eddy (1955), Al Robsahm (1956), Morgan Moore (1956), Audrie Wing (1957), Bea Floyd (1958), Dean O Bray (1958), and Gail Walter (1958).

Additions/ corrections? Please contact Patsy Brierley or another member of the History Committee. Thanks!

Newcomers' Café Jan. 13 - Be There!

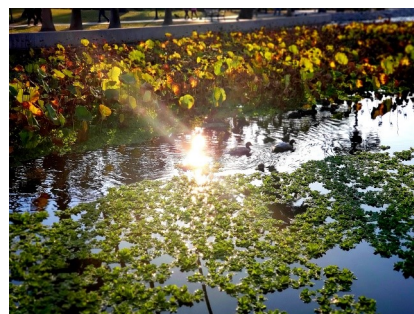


After church at 11:30 AM on 1/13, let Cameron Johnson be your guide to St. Cross! She's hosting anyone who is interested in getting to know more about St. Cross after church on Sunday the 13th. Meet staff, parishioners and other newcomers. Enjoy a snack and learn more about the opportunities, activities, groups and events that are perfect for individuals and families at St. Cross.

Send an email to Cameron (cjohnson@stcross.org) for more information and to let Cameron know you will be there!

Reviewing Peace & Justice Retreat

The Peace & Justice Retreat was held November 9-10, 2018 at the Episcopal Center in Echo Park. The group got off to a good start around 4:00 on Friday afternoon gathering around for happy hour with great conversation and friendship. Following was a delicious dinner prepared by the Center chef. After dinner the group went out to the (cold!) terrace to sing folk songs and favorite Christian hymns. Some of the group took an early morning walk around the refurbished lake the next morning - always a joy to see the various birds and plants, as well as a thriving community! After breakfast we watched an incredibly powerful and moving film, "Human Flow" written and produced by the Chinese artist Ai Weiwei. (He also has several local exhibits of his art, including an on-going one at the Marciano Foundation.) The film depicts the plight and flight of men, women and children in 76 countries. We highly recommend that everyone watch it, but watch it with others so you can discuss afterward. The film, available through online streaming services, reinforced the group's intent to hold a community event on migration in the coming year. - **P&J Committee**



Parish Life

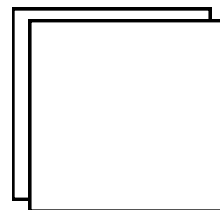
More Pageant Photos! Follow [instagram.com/stcrosshermosa](https://www.instagram.com/stcrosshermosa)





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First Class Mail



Mark Your Calendars!

The Epiphany

Sunday, January 6

Youth Service Weekend

January 19-21

See page 5

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 27

See page 2

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

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