

JANUARY 2020



St. Cross
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Crossroads

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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VESTRY CANDIDATES



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CONNECTION CAFÉ



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PAGEANT THANKS

Into the New + Annual Meeting **REV. RACHEL**

I would be interested to know when you actually picked up this edition of Crossroads and read through. Was it the day it arrived? Did you find it in a pile of mail as you were cleaning up from the holidays? I don't have judgment about this at all. Just curious to know when you have taken a moment to read about your faith community.

Whenever you did read this, I hope that you will take a moment to pause and think back on this past year. What have you done to strengthen your faith? When have you taken a moment to just be with God? What are your hopes for your relation-



ship with God as we head into a new year?

There are so many ways to be involved at St. Cross. Each ministry—from Buildings and Grounds, to teaching Sunday school, to feeding the homeless—is a way in which we connect with God and connect with our faith community. Every time we reach out we are living the Gospel message in real time.

My question to you, to each and every member of our worshipping community, is to ask you how you're active in ministry at this time. Are you doing what you want to be doing? Is there a ministry you are interested in but are scared to try? Or don't know how to get started or who to talk to? My belief is that we each need to be involved beyond our Sunday worship time.

Find something that speaks to you. Jump in. Find a way to deepen your faith through study or service. You might be surprised at how it can transform your life.

-Rev. Rachel+

ANNUAL MEETING

We encourage all of you to COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING on January 26, 2020 after the 10 AM service. Why? This is where the rector and Vestry set out the

Continued 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. Stephen Smith
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

January Calendar Highlights

1/01: Office Closed (New Year)
1/02: Neighbor to Neighbor
1/09: Sociable Seniors
1/12: COOP Meeting, 9 AM
1/12: Connection Café (page 5)
1/12: COOP Party (page 7)
1/18: Youth Retreat (page 5)
1/19: Civil Rights Pilgrimage Group
1/20: Office Closed (MLK Jr.)
1/22: Prayer Shawl Guild
1/23: Sociable Seniors
1/26: Annual Meeting (page 1)
1/26: Vestry Election (page 4-5)
1/28: Folding of *Crossroads*
1/28: Vestry Meeting, 9 AM
1/29: Laundry Love

Annual Meeting Jan. 26

Throughout This Issue...

This month, we have a number of photos to share! Rather than put them all in one place, you will see photos throughout this issue of the Christmas Pageant, Christmas parties and more life around St. Cross.

To Submit Articles and/or Photos...

Article and photo submissions are due on the 10th of the month for the following month's *Crossroads*. Articles are limited to 175 words. Space is limited and publishing can't be guaranteed; articles may be edited to fit. Submit to connect@stcross.org.



ST. CROSS *History*

In the Episcopal Church in the United States all bishops are created equal, BUT one is the first among equals! – the Presiding Bishop, the bishop elected by all bishops to be our spiritual leader.

Q.

When did a Presiding Bishop come to worship with us at St. Cross?

Answer on page 6

Annual Meeting

FROM PAGE 1

vision for the year to come, and to review the year that has just come to a close. We will be discussing where our money is used, the health of our ministries, the hopes for the future, and the needs of our community. Please, please do attend. There will be child care available.

Episco-speak: Rubrics

The other day, I heard someone say, “The rubrics in the Prayer Book say...” What are rubrics?

Great question! Rubrics are the italicized words in the Book of Common Prayer that provide service direction. For example, the rubrics can say mundane things like “The Celebrant then says this prayer...” to instructive direction, such as “In Lent and on other penitential occasions, the Celebrant may say...”

The goal of the rubrics are to help the service flow more smoothly, help the priests know when to say what, in which seasons, or what the options are for various parts of the service.

Have you heard some church jargon that you don’t know what it means? Do you have any questions about why we do what we do at church? Email me at nbiornstad@stcross.org



Ministry Updates

Youth Choir

The new year is a time for fresh starts. Why not try something new and join the Youth Choir? Youth in 3rd - 8th grades are invited to experience the fun, fellowship and joy of singing to the glory of God. We rehearse Sundays 11:15 AM - Noon. Come, and invite a friend! For more info contact Candace at candaceford1@mac.com or 310-567-2517.

Sign up for our weekly email at stcross.org!



2020 St. Cross Candidates for Vestry

On Sunday, January 26th at the Annual Meeting, we will elect new members to our Vestry, the lay leadership of St. Cross. We ask each candidate to answer the following: **1)** Why would you like to serve on the St. Cross vestry? **2)** What skills have you developed in your life's work that you will bring? **3)** What other skills do you bring that you think will be valuable? **4)** What are special hobbies or interests you enjoy? **5)** What area of ministry interests you most? See the candidate answers below and on the next page! See full responses at stcross.org/candidates

Anne Tittle

1) I love St. Cross and I have seen our ministries have a transformative impact on the lives of our parishioners, particularly our young people. I feel called to offer my time and talent to St. Cross!

2) Working with children and families; Multi-tasking; Written and verbal communication; Managing fundraising events and projects.

3) Detail-oriented; Punctual; Sense of Humor.

4) Hiking, camping, running (being active); Cooking new foods and recipes; Spending time with Brett, Adam, Ben, and our dogs.

5) Youth and Christian Education.



Chuck Bruley

1) I've been a member at St. Cross for about 4 years. I would like to expand my knowledge of how this Church functions and find out what goes on behind the scenes, other than Sunday mornings.

2) Administrative skills; Scheduling activities; Working with people; Purchasing.

3) Read Bible daily; Receive Eucharist weekly; Eager to spread the word of Christ through outreach and example.

4) Reading books, working out, cooking, traveling.

5) Visiting members that are in the hospital or homebound.



Sherry Graham

1) I would like to serve on the St. Cross Vestry because, as I wrote on the white board at the first summer breakfast this year, St Cross is my family. As such, I want to be ever more involved and at a new level. Most importantly, I bring a love for Jesus and a desire to advance God's Kingdom in the world beginning here at St. Cross.

2) In my life's work and 50-year career as a flight attendant, I have been particularly good at keeping the peace, working with and, as a purser, leading people with many different personality types, and developing the ability to get along with (most) everyone.

3) Patience and the ability to listen and to be understanding and compassionate.

4) I am never without a book. I love to read and I love to cook. I excel at adapting recipes to fit the ingredients on hand. I love spending time in the garden, and especially on lavishing attention on our backyard tomato farm. I am grateful that I have been able to continue to enrich so many of the friendships I have that go back five or more decades, despite the geographical distances involved.

5) Long-term planning for the growth of St. Cross and its place in our community.



Connection Café: Sunday, January 12

11:30 AM in the Guild Room (just off the main Parish Hall)

Would you like to get to know St. Cross better? Whether you're new(ish) to St. Cross or a long-time member looking to feel more connected, please join us for a Connection Café after church on Jan. 12th. This casual gathering is a perfect time to meet and mingle, ask questions, and give us your feedback. It's a great way to get to know some other parishioners as well as clergy and staff members.

Light refreshments will be served. **RSVP to cjohnson@stcross.org**

David Charlton

1) St Cross has added significant meaning to my life over the past several years and I am keen to contribute and help the church continue its wide range of missions within the South Bay and beyond.

2) General management, with a particular focus on leading and managing large complex projects and teams; Business planning, and Sales and marketing strategy; Strategic thinking as part of a leadership team; Consultancy/counsel to senior business leaders.

3) I believe in striving to be a life-long learner (I am a father of two young girls - which is a part of a continuing learning challenge/opportunity); As a member of a multi-racial family I am an active member of my daughters' school's Diversity Equity and Inclusion effort.; I have recently taken on overseeing a significant construction project which gives me insight and experience that could be helpful with several of our upcoming rental property decisions (that we are likely going to need to make in the next few years).

4) Paddle-surfing; Studying viniculture and its current trends; Learning along-side my 7-year-old daughter to play the piano.

5) Caring for those in our community who are experiencing homelessness; Planning for the long-term health of our church through a thoughtful approach to maintaining and updating our rental property portfolio.



MLK Weekend Youth Retreat: Jan. 18-19



In his letter from a Birmingham Jail, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed". The theme of this year's MLK Weekend Youth Retreat from January 18-19 will explore a faith-based response to mass incarceration. All middle and high school youth are invited to participate in this joint project between St. Luke's in Long Beach and St. Cross. The planning team is putting together an immersive and transformative experience that will include conversation, reflection, learning, and relationship building. As a follow-up to the retreat in January, the high-school

participants will visit the border wall in San Diego and continue the conversation around incarceration. The visit to the border will take place in Lent. The youth will be invited to examine their assumptions, as well as the powerful role of perspective and narrative. They will also be invited into the stories of others, as they not only seek to see Christ in others, but to respect the dignity of every human being. If your youth has not yet RSVP'd, please contact Rev. Stephen as soon as possible at ssmith@stcross.org

Pastoral Care Corner

Happy New Year! 2020 is here! When you think about the year ahead, what do you think about? What are you praying about? What you like to see done in your life, in your family, in our community, and in our nation?

Although thinking about the future can be hopeful activity, it can also be unsettling. We don't know what challenges we will face in the year ahead. We might experience troubles that we cannot foretell... It's little wonder that our anxiety can spike.

So, what do we do when we feel anxious and uncertain?

Remember God's work in your life. You are more than the person that you were last year at this time. This past year, you've learned some things. Maybe your intimacy with God has increased; maybe you're feeling more of God's presence and the Holy Spirit's leading more often.

The beauty of God's work continues to be revealed in you. In 2020, God's good work in your life, in your family, in our community, and in our nation is just getting started.

- **The Rev. Nathan Biornstad**



Photos from the Christmas Parties of St. Monica's Guild and Sociable Seniors



1,000 Days of Love

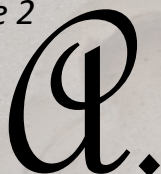
The Episcopal Relief & Development arm of the church kicked off an exciting new program in 2019: 1000 Days of Love. Their aim is to raise \$3 million in the U.S. in 3 years, to benefit children around the world, with the LA Diocese share being \$200,000. St. Cross wants to do its part, so look for a table in Parker Hall occasionally in the next couple of years, along with other opportunities to give to this project.

If you already donate periodically to Episcopal Relief & Development, please help the goal of this project by writing "1000 Days of Love" in the memo line.

Any St. Cross ministries who have ideas about fundraising for this project, please email Mervis at merv4peace@gmail.com. The Peace & Justice group is thinking of holding a bake sale for Valentine's Day, and welcome others to join us, with all proceeds going to this ERD project. Other ideas are encouraged!

ST. CROSS *History*

From page 2



On a Saturday in January 1993, Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning's son was married at St. Cross, and on Sunday the Most Reverend Edmond Browning and his wife Patti sat in the pews and worshiped with us as ordinary visitors. He was a down-to-earth man who proclaimed that "in this church there will be no outcasts!"

Update on Our Guests Seeking Asylum

Lana and Artem came to St. Cross a little over a year ago as they were seeking asylum, and we had housing to offer. They have been our guest, friend, and a faithful part of our community (which was not an expectation in any way). I don't think any of us knew the true depth of joys and challenges in helping those seeking asylum. Yet, together we are working with Lana and Artem to continue their transition to independence. A team has been providing support to Artem and Lana on a quarterly basis and as needed in specific situations.

Lana works at Vons and is pursuing her art. She sketches portraits and shared her gifted talent at the pop-up bazaar at St Cross in November.

Many Thanks!

A BIG thank you to our wonderful cast and the many volunteers who helped with the Christmas Pageant this year. The pageant is made possible by the committed children and youth, as well as the many adults working behind the scenes. Our awesome team of costume curators worked to care for and update costumes for over 40 people. Our team of eight sound and light volunteers spent hours running cords and setting up a new light system this year. Eight Sunday School teachers helped our chorus learn their songs, and two dozen parents helped with everything from supervision to running the reception. A very special thanks to **Candace Ford** who coordinated all the music this year and made sure we had everything we needed, and to **Phil Sanchez** who helped to lead the charge on setting up a new lighting system. Congratulations to our youth director **Raquel Pringle** for a well-run pageant!



More from Rev. Stephen

After-Christmas Party for Parents, Saturday, January 12th 4 PM, Parker Hall

Put on your ugly Christmas sweater one last time and join the Community of Open-Hearted Parents (COOP) for a potluck and white-elephant gift exchange. Child care is provided. RSVP to Sarah O'Grady at ogradymama@gmail.com.

Vacation Bible School — Summer Save the Date

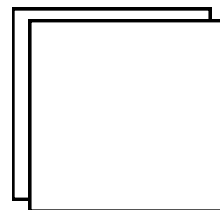
Vacation Bible School – always a blast and a wonderful experience for child participants and youth volunteers alike! July 13-17





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First Class Mail



ANNUAL MEETING JAN 26

We join together for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26th after the 10 AM service.

At the Annual Meeting, we look back at the year concluded, look forward to the year to come, elect Vestry and more.

Read more about the meeting on page 1, and see the Vestry Candidates on pages 4 and 5.

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

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CHURCH STAFF

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Trudy Bush—Office Administrator
Judi Kelly—Bookkeeper
Merrill Whatley—Communications
David Dawson—Facilities Manager
Cameron Johnson—Connection Coordinator