

JUNE 2019



St. Cross
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Crossroads

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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FIVE QUESTIONS

Youth Programs at St. Cross

REV. ROBIN

Youth faith formation programs are a long tradition and pride of St. Cross. We invest a lot of time, volunteer power and resources in supporting our youth in their faith development. Our youth bring so much to our parish! The community learns from the youth in their commitment to serve the wider community, their service of the church community, and their passion, questions, and ideas.

Our youth in grades 6-12 are divided into three classes. The youth classes have age appropriate discussions as well as outings and trips for the older students focused around deepening their relationships with God and with each other. They have the op-

portunity to explore their faith, to ask questions, and to study scripture and what it means in their lives, as well as to learn about other faiths. Outings are organized for fellowship, learning and service. This year especially we have been incorporating more service learning opportunities.

Every two years, we form a new class of "Rite 13," 6th and 7th graders. That class will then progress together through the youth program. They are in Rite 13 for two years, and then graduate to Journey to Adulthood, or "J2A". They are in J2A for two years and conclude that class by going on an international pilgrimage to deepen their connection with God. (More than half of the expense of this trip is paid for by the parking lot fundraiser the youth run on Memorial Day and Labor Day each year, and scholarships are available). After pilgrimage they graduate to the confirmation class for juniors and seniors in high school, Confirm not Confirm (or "CNC"). CNC is a two-year class that concludes with confirmation. This year, the CNC class is also going on an international mission learning



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

June Calendar Highlights

6/06: Neighbor to Neighbor
6/08: Usher Meeting, 9 AM
6/09: Graduation Day
6/09: Bp. Diane, Confirmations
6/09: Senior Sermons
6/09: Teacher Appreciation
6/09: Directory Picture Day #1
6/11: St. Monica's, 6 PM
6/13: Sociable Seniors, 11 AM
6/16: Father's Day
6/18: Vestry Meeting
6/20: J2A Pilgrimage: See p 4
6/23: Directory Picture Day #2
6/25: Folding of *Crossroads*
6/26: Prayer Shawl Guild, 6 PM
6/26: Laundry Love

**Journey to Adulthood
Pilgrimage to Scotland
June 20-30
See Page 4 for Details**

Habitat for Humanity Parking Lot Staffing

Sign up at stcross.org/h4h—The church Habitat for Humanity team is looking for volunteers to help staff the parking lot over the Fourth of July weekend (Thursday, July 4th and Saturday, July 6th) to raise funds for future builds. The job is fun and you will be working with other church volunteers. The shifts are approximately 3 1/2 hours long, no prior experience necessary. We're looking for parking volunteers as well as shift leads. Leads will take down signage and barricades, organize volunteers and so forth.

Sign up at stcross.org/h4h and contact John Cheslick jdcheslick@gmail.com with questions.



Rev. Rachel takes a break from Crossroads this month for grandmothering!

ST. CROSS History

During the reign of Henry VIII, after the split of the Church of England with Rome, parish registers were introduced into the churches throughout the land. These registers kept information on all baptisms, marriages, and burials. Before that the Roman Catholic religious houses and parish priests kept informal notes of these sacraments of prominent local families only. Today all Episcopal churches are required by canon (church) law to keep books recording baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials.



What is recorded in these records and why does the church want them?

Answer on page 6

YOUTH PROGRAMS

FROM PAGE 1

experience to Central America in July.

This program-year, which concludes on June 9, is the end of a two-year cycle. So each youth class will be promoted, and in the fall, we will have a new Rite 13 class of 6th and 7th graders. We will also have an extra class for our seniors in high school who have already finished CNC. Please be in touch with Rev. Robin to learn more about this if your child, grandchild, or friend is interested in joining our youth program, or if you have any questions!

- Rev. Robin+

Episco-speak: Peace

Why do we exchange peace with those around us in the middle of the service? We offer peace to each other for several reasons: Scripture, Tradition, and Reason. First, a greeting of peace can be traced to the early centuries of the church. In several passage of Scripture, the New Testament writers refer to an exchange of peace or a holy kiss (1st Corinthians 16.20; Ephesians 6.23-24; Hebrews 13.24; 3 John 15). Over time, the exchange of the peace has taken a form of kissing the hand or cheek, an embrace, the clasp of the hands, or a bow.

In the 5th century, the tradition in the church in Rome became to exchange the peace before the breaking of bread in the Eucharistic celebration. After the tradition was revived in the Book of Common Worship of the Church of South India, the peace was adopted into our revised 1979 Prayer Book. The reason behind it's reinstatement was the exchange of peace provided a valuable opportunity for parishioners to make sure that they are good relationship with each other before receiving the Eucharist.



Summer Softball

Summer Softball is Underway! The St. Cross Dodgers will be playing at McMaster Park, Torrance.

June 8: 11:30 AM

June 15: 4:50 PM

June 22: 4:50 PM

July 6: 2:10 PM

July 13: 2:10 and 3:30 PM

July 20: 11:30 AM

August 3: 9:50 AM

August 10: 12:50 PM

D Division Championship
Game: August 17, 3:30 PM



Any questions? Contact
Bruce Difley at (310) 433-
5513 or Mike Welch at
(310) 944-8089.



St. Cross Community Gardeners Honored by City of Hermosa Beach—See page 6



Vacation Bible School

Last chance to sign up for Vacation Bible School! Registration closes on June 9. Register online at www.stcross.org/vbs.

Participants and volunteers will explore themes of faith, boldness, kindness, thankfulness, and hope with crafts, science projects, bible stories, singing, and games, accompanied by our Robot-puppet host, EP3-20!

Sunday July 14, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM: Kick-Off event and Registration

July 15-19, 9 AM-Noon: Vacation Bible School

Sunday July 21, 10 AM: VBS Beach Mass, at 22nd and the Strand

Pray for Our Youth Pilgrims

Our Journey to Adulthood youth class will be going on pilgrimage this summer to Scotland, along with Rev. Robin and their youth leaders. The purpose of the pilgrimage is to draw closer to God, and deepen spiritual friendships with each other. We will be walking an ancient pilgrim path, visiting holy and historical sites, and meeting other Episcopalians in Scotland. The team has prepared for two years for this trip, by meeting together on Sunday mornings and by going away on a mini-pilgrimage together here in southern California. You can be a partner in this trip by joining them in prayer. Knowing that we are being sent and prayed for by our church community is a great source of encouragement and spiritual depth. Please pray for the group as we prepare and go on this journey, which will be June 20-30: for Raquel, Rylei, Ellie, Cameron, Brett, Anne, Peter, and Rev. Robin. In next month's *Crossroads*, look for more details about how you can support the youth mission trip, coming in late July, with prayer!



10 AM Children's Chapel in the Summer

June 16 through September 8, there will be no Sunday School during the 9 AM hour. There will be Children's Chapel during the 10 AM service. Children come to the service with their parents, and then leave for Children's chapel shortly after the service starts.



Confirmation & Graduation

Sunday, June 9 at St. Cross

Featuring: Senior sermons, Bishop Diane, confirmations, promotion of youth classes, teacher appreciation!

Sunday School teachers for all grades, and youth finishing grades 5th through 12th, please be present.



Pastoral Care Corner

What are some of your best summer memories? Do you remember fishing, camping or hunting in the woods? Do you remember swimming in the ocean, sunbathing on the warm sand, or eating cotton candy at the county fair?

The act of remembering serves to keep those memories fresh. When we remember positive life experiences, those memories can provide us joy and comfort. Sometimes, we can even recall that moment's love and care.

Memories are powerful. In Scripture, we are encouraged and exhorted to remember what God is like and to remember the work that God has done.

The prophet Malachi wrote, "Remember the teaching of my servant Moses." The Apostle Paul wrote, "Remember that you were at that time without Christ"

It is important to remember God 's ongoing work in our lives and in the world. The act of remembering God's deeds of love, care and compassion serves as a conduit for us to desire more of God's involvement in our lives.

Sometimes though, disease robs us of our memories. God doesn't condemn us for forgetting when we have no control over remembering.

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**



Hermosa Honors St. Cross Gardeners

Red, ripe tomatoes, laid atop fresh-picked baby kale, arugula and lettuce: thanks to a group of St. Cross parishioners and South Bay community members knows as the "20%ers," this is on-offer at local free-lunch programs.

Why are they called the 20%ers? When Hermosa Beach decided to build the newest community garden, the city set aside 20% of the beds to provide food for people who might not have access to fresh fruits and vegetables. The low-water-usage

bed in use were designed by St. Cross parishioner Hal Hurst, and our volunteers harvest hundreds of pounds of produce for the community.

On April 9, the City of Hermosa Beach celebrated National Volunteer Week with a luncheon, and there St. Cross volunteers were honored with Certificates of Appreciation in recognition of the many hours of service. Visit the garden at 425 Valley Drive in Hermosa Beach! See photos on page 3 and page 7.

From page 2
ST. CROSS

History

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the diocese that includes the number of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials, the number of communicants, and receipts and expenditures. These are then collated and a diocesan report is sent to the national church. With this information the church through General Convention and Executive Council can plan for the future. For example, is the church growing? shrinking? what ministries are successful and can be replicated elsewhere?

Church records, when certified, may be used as legal proof of birth, marriage, and death.

5 Questions with Rev. Stephen Smith

St. Cross announced via our weekly email (sign up stcross.org!) the hiring of the Rev. Stephen Smith as Associate for Formation! Rev. Stephen's first day at St. Cross will be August 11. We'll have more of his bio for you soon, but for now we present Rev. Stephen's answers to our Five Questions:



1) What excites you about coming to St. Cross to work?

I've heard so many wonderful things about the community at St. Cross from Rev. Rachel and others associated with the parish. I think the people in our lives and the communities to which we belong make a profound impact on how we come to know and experience God -- so I'm excited to work with and meet the people at St. Cross! Being just a few blocks from the beach might be pretty sweet too.

2) What is your favorite book of the Bible and why?

Wow, good question! I'm really into John's Gospel at the moment. Preaching on John has made me aware of how the author weaves various themes and images throughout his narrative in a way that expresses deep truths that are often difficult to capture in words. I've enjoyed wrestling with the complexity and beauty of the author's writing.

3) What is one of your early memories of church?

Flying paper airplanes from the choir loft into the nave. I think we did it for a church school activity, and when I was young I thought that was pretty cool. The warm and welcome environment I experienced during my childhood and throughout the rest of my life had a huge impact on me and how I've come to love church.

4) What is one thing you want us to know about you?

My wife and I have two cats named Dr. Waffles and Dr. Donut. They have a more active Instagram account than I do.

5) St. Cross loves a good meal. What is your favorite food?

Nothing beats a carne asada burrito with lots of spicy salsa in my book.



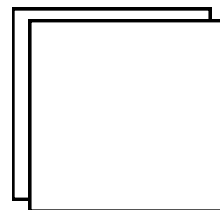
Community Garden Recognition, Sociable Seniors Wine Tour,
Visit from LA Fire | Follow at facebook.com/stcrosshermosa





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First Class Mail



Confirmation & Graduation

**June 9 is Confirmation Sunday with
Bishop Suffragan Diane Bruce**

...but that's not all!

June 9 is also:
**Graduation Sunday
Senior Sermons
Teacher Appreciation
Directory Photo Day #1**

More info throughout
this edition of *Crossroads*!

Note: Directory Photo Day #2 is June 23

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

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