

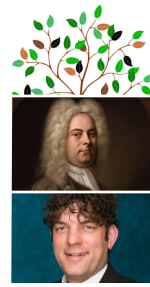
NOVEMBER 2018



St. Cross
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Crossroads

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



5

GIVING TREE

5

MESSIAH SING-ALONG

6

LISTENING

Into the Season of Gratitude

REV. RACHEL

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. - 1 Thess 5:18

It is that time of year when we turn our attention to being thankful for all that we have been given and we work to find ways to share out of our abundance. As Christians, this isn't a call to arms in November, but part of our daily spiritual journey. No matter how much we have (wealth, family, love, work, a home), God calls us to give thanks for what we have been given.

I have never forgotten the book study we did when I first got to St. Cross on the *Soul of Money* by Lynne Twist. One of the facts that she brings to

light is that those with less financial resources tend to give away a higher percentage of what they have (to church, charities, or needy people). For years that statistic has haunted me, and I personally strive to make sure I am giving as much as I can. Not just of my money, but also of my time and personal gifts to causes I care about, such as interfaith dialog and women's health and education issues. I realize I care about these causes as they have personally touched my life again and again.



I would hazard to say that many at St. Cross care about the refugee crisis in our country, whether it is about children being separated at the border from their parents or the fact that the conditions in the private detention centers are sub-standard to say the least. However, I think that our hearts have been changed with the arrival of the first asylum seeker who we have helped. By the time this newsletter hits your mailbox, we will be in court in an effort to be sure her husband is granted asylum and they can be reunited after 17 months of separation. Daily in my prayers I give thanks for the many members of St. Cross who have given of their time, talent

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

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

11 AM: Sociable Seniors **
6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM: Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY - Office Closed

* 2nd and 4th Monday
** 2nd and 4th Thursday

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

November 2018 Calendar

11/01: Neighbor to Neighbor
11/04: Messiah Rehearsal, 1 PM
11/07: All Souls' Day
11/08: Sociable Seniors, see p 7
11/11: Giving Tree Begins, p 5
11/11: Messiah Rehearsal, 1 PM
11/11: OSL Reception, 4 PM
11/11: OSL Evensong & Healing
11/16: St. Cross Book Club
11/18: Messiah Rehearsal, 1 PM
11/20: Folding of *Crossroads*
11/22: Thanksgiving Day
Office Closed
11/24: Messiah Dress Rehearsal
11/25: Messiah Sing-Along, 3 PM
11/27: Vestry Meeting
11/28: Prayer Shawl Guild, Rm 4
11/28: Laundry Love

Messiah Sing-Along
11/25 from 3 PM—6 PM
More on Page 5

Christmas Pageant 2018!

The Christmas Pageant is a long and glorious tradition at St. Cross! It is a separate service, where the youth and children tell the story of the birth of Christ. All children and youth are welcome to participate in the pageant, but attendance at Sunday School in November and December is needed for preparation. Practice for the pageant songs, and casting for the pageant will begin this month in Sunday School, so frequent attendance would be a big help. For those cast in acting roles, the required rehearsal is on Saturday December 15, starting at 9am. For the whole cast, the dress rehearsal begins at 3pm on Sunday December 16. The Pageant will be on Sunday December 16, at 5pm.



St. Cross teachers and staff took part in Godly Play training in October

ST. CROSS History

Q.

Do you know what year the South Bay Interfaith Thanksgiving services began? And when we first hosted the Messiah Sing-Along?

Answer on page 6

SEASON OF GRATITUDE

FROM PAGE 1

and treasure to make sure that these asylum seekers are cared for, whether it is a trip to the gym, a dinner out, rides to check in with the authorities or to medical appointments. Putting a face on a larger issue changes our hearts. It reminds us that even when times seem difficult, we need to give thanks for what we have and for what we can give away.

To that end, in a recent parents' meeting, the parents have asked for more giving opportunities for families. They are looking for hands on ways of helping those most in need. Please be in touch with Rev. Robin or me if you have ideas or would like to help lead these family outreach projects for all ages. St. Cross has the gift of enormous resources, generous hearts, and faithful followers. For this I give thanks every day, and I am grateful to have been called to serve with you.

Thank You, Rev. Rachel



PLEDGE CARDS

Pledge cards are due on Sunday Nov. 4. Please be sure that you have turned yours in so that we can set the budget for the 2019 year.

We have had a gentle stewardship campaign this year as we know that almost everyone gave generously to the capital campaign.

Our hope is that everyone continues their pledge at its current level (or higher if you wish) for the 2019 year.

Notes

All Souls' Day 11/7 - Join us on Wednesday, Nov. 7 for a special All Souls' Day Service at 7pm in the chapel. We remember those who have shaped our faith, our lives, and our community.

South Bay PFLAG Chapter Arrives - PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization for people who are LGBTQ along with their families, friends, and allies. Monthly support group meetings on first Tuesdays from 7-9 PM in the Fireside Room, Manhattan Beach Community Church, 303 S. Peck Ave., Manhattan Beach.

Peace & Justice Retreat 11/9 -11/10 - This year's Peace & Justice (P&J) Community retreat will be held at the Episcopal Center in Echo Park. We begin around 4PM on Friday for camaraderie, wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and hors d'oeuvres. In the evening we do a little singing on the rooftop. Saturday morning and afternoon we plan to watch a film or two with discussion afterward. Contact Mervis at merv4peace@gmail.com or 310-944-0191.

St. Cross Pilgrims in Ireland



Youth Service Weekend

Coming up over Martin Luther King weekend (January 19-21, 2019), our youth will be doing a three-day local mission experience. We will be joining with two other youth groups at nearby Episcopal Churches, working together to transform our neighborhoods.

It will be a great experience of meeting youth from different communities nearby, to step out in service, and to develop skills of leadership and being agents of positive change in our communities. Contact Rev. Robin with any questions.



Parent's Group: "The Coop"

Last month the parents decided on a name change for their group, (formerly called St. Clare's) to reflect what the group is for: Community of Open-hearted Parents or "the Coop." The Coop will meet the second Sunday of each month in Room 4 (except April and May will be the first Sunday). All parents and guardians of children are welcome to come to the meetings. The group is for fellowship and conversation, to share ideas and experiences, and for mutual support and encouragement. During the meetings, beginning in January, Rev. Rachel will be leading a series on Brené Brown's work on open-hearted parenting and helping children develop resiliency. Contact Rev. Robin if you have any questions or ideas.

Advent Study Series

This advent, adults and youth are invited to join our study called "Walk by Faith: Human Rights on the Way of Love."

Join us Wednesdays beginning Nov 14-Dec 19 (except Thanksgiving), from 7:30-8:30 in the Guild Room (following 7pm Eucharist). We will be looking at how the lens of Human Rights can help us live out our baptismal faith. The series involves discussion of scripture and the baptismal promises in the Episcopal Church.

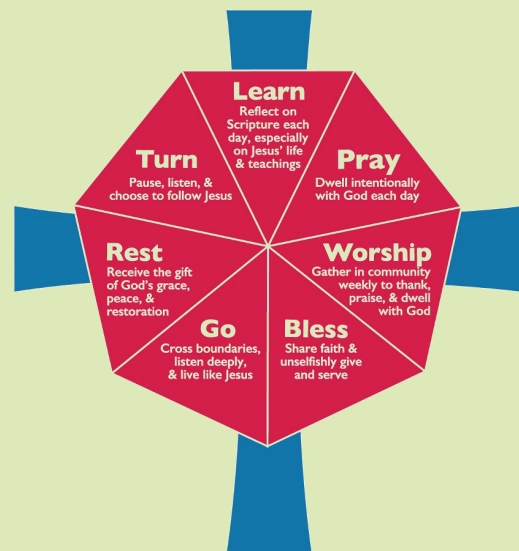
This is a new curriculum being developed by Cristosal and The Episcopal Church. We are one of the first congregations to use it, as a pilot program, for the planned launch of Lent 2019.

Steps on the Way of Love: Sunday Adult Education

Adult education is available and thriving each Sunday in the Guild Room, from 9am to 9:50am.

This year in Adult Education, we are delving deeper into Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's call to the "Way of Love". The "Way of Love" is a way of talking about how we live out our faith and love of God and neighbor in the world in practical ways. Each month, we focus on one of steps of the Way of Love: turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, and rest.

The first Sunday of each month is a presentation on the step by the clergy, and the other weeks we explore that step in different specific ways through hearing the stories of others and through reflection on new ideas and writings.



THE WAY OF LOVE
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

Giving Tree Season is Here!

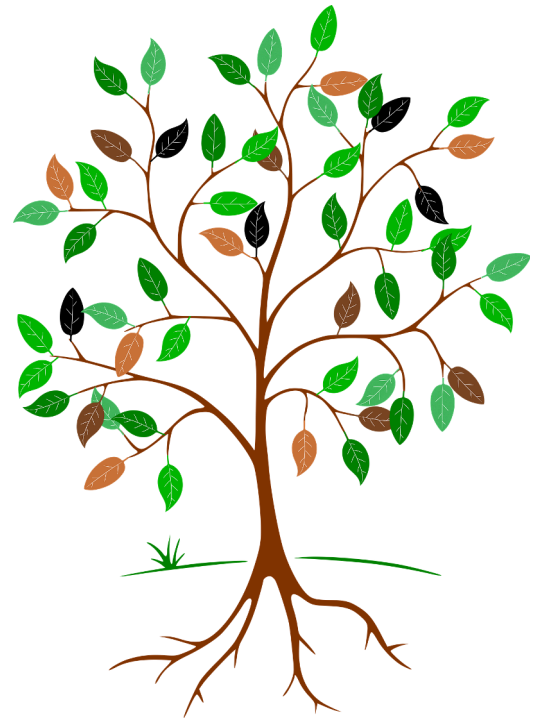
Tis' the season to start thinking about Giving Tree! St. Cross' annual event is almost here and members of the Giving Tree program are busy preparing for what we hope is another rewarding year of providing Christmas gifts to hundreds of deserving children. For over 25 years, the Giving Tree has been making the holidays a bit brighter for needy families throughout the South Bay and greater Los Angeles area. In 2017 our congregation was able to touch the lives of 134 kids. This year we're hoping to surpass last year's success by being able to reach out to even more people than we have in years past. It never ceases to amaze us just how many members of our congregation want to help. It is because of this that we are actively trying to identify more families in need.

The first day to choose names will be November 11th. All wrapped gifts will be due back either December 2nd or 9th. Although we hope to receive specific wish list items for each of the children, sometimes we don't get an overwhelming amount of ideas. Gift cards are always a good bet in this case. Teenagers specifically might enjoy movie gift cards, money to use on Amazon, or even a gift card to a video game store like Game Stop. Girls always love beauty products, and there are plenty to be found at Ulta Beauty. Of course there are many other suitable options as well, but we thought we'd suggest a few for anyone struggling to find just the right present.

We have no doubt that the generosity of St. Cross will shine bright again this year. We look forward to seeing all the excited faces as you all scour the boards for just the right recipient!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Salem, Courtney Shott, Dana Thomas, Amy Hanrahan and Bill Soper



Messiah Sing-Along: Sunday, 11/25



It's our 9th year performing a sing-along of Handel's Messiah, and we want to make this one bigger and better than ever, with your help!

Rehearsals in November:

Sundays, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18: 1-3 PM

Saturday, 11/24: 9 AM—Noon

Performance:

Sunday, 11/25 at 3 PM

Call Time at 1 PM

Contact: Patrick Bridges,
email: pbridgesnyc@verizon.net

Pastoral Care Corner

Last month, I mentioned I would be writing a series of articles about pastoral care. This month: listening.

What does it mean to listen? First of all, I think that it is important to remember that listening is a gift that we can offer someone else. How often are we really listened to? Some people will listen, but most won't truly be listening because they are already plotting how they are going to respond at their first opportunity to speak. Other people listen, but while the other person is talking, the "listener" is constructing various advice scenarios. Neither of these are truly listening.

Listening involves being empathic, working to understand what the other person is going through from their point of view, and being present. If a listening person is thinking about what they want to say, they are not truly listening. Listening involves giving space for the other person to be heard.

There is a graciousness to listening. When I listen, I work hard to extend the person as much grace as possible. Who am I to judge them for their past decisions? God doesn't tap me on the shoulder and say, "Hey Nathan, can you believe so-and-so did that?" No, we are compelled by Scripture (Matthew 7.1) not to judge others. So when listening, focus on your care for this person and hear their story through the eyes of compassion.

And then when they have finished sharing, ask them what they need. Sometimes, people don't know, and that is OK, too. Maybe someone just needed a safe place to talk. Listening is a great way to communicate love.

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.



Construction Updates

Many have asked about how construction is going and what is being spent where. Costs are approximate and don't include fees for fundraising, architect, engineers, city fees, etc. Rev. Rachel or Konrad the treasurer would be happy to review the complete budget with you. The descriptions below are not exhaustive, but are general to keep everyone in the loop with the happenings and where your money is being spent.

Organ: by the time you read this, the organ is likely to be back to some functionality. There is a new

console (the keyboards that the organist plays) and a retuning of the pipes to better fit our space since our renovation over 10 years ago. Cost \$200k

Education Building: this includes window replacement of the east windows, restroom remodel upstairs for accessibility, Room 9 flooring, new cupboards all rooms for multifunctional storage for St. Cross and Temple Shalom, work on the deck, rails and stairs. \$350k

Elevator: we are still working out the design with the

See page 7

ST. CROSS

History



From page 2

The Messiah Sing-Along started in 2010 with the North Torrance Youth Music Ensemble (Ntyme) orchestra accompanying a choir of voices from the community. Messiah Sing-Along, Sunday, November 25, 2018, 3 pm at St. Cross Church.

The History Committee doesn't know when the first Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was held – do you? If so, let a member of the History Committee know! (Thanks!) This year, the South Bay Interfaith Thanksgiving Service is Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2018, 7 pm at the Church of the Latter-Day Saints in Torrance.

Sociable Seniors Calendar

November 8, 2018

California Science Museum

Location: Meet at St. Cross Parking Lot

Time: 930am to 4pm

Lunch: Purchase from the Grill at California Science Museum

November 22, 2018

No Gathering; HAPPY THANKGIVING!

December 13, 2018

Advent Party with White Elephant Gift Exchange

Time: 11am to 1pm

Lunch: Potluck

January 10, 2019

Movie Day

Time: 11am to 1pm

Lunch: Bring Your Own Brown Bag Lunch

January 24, 2019 –

Time: 11am to 1pm

Lunch: Bring Your Own Brown Bag Lunch

February 14, 2019

Valentine's Day Party

Time: 11am to 1pm

Lunch: Bring Your Own Brown Bag Lunch

February 28, 2019

Fraud Prevention by Hermosa PD

Time: 11am to 1pm

Lunch: Bring Your Own Brown Bag Lunch

March 14, 2019

Time: 11am to 1pm

Lunch: Bring Your Own Brown Bag Lunch

March 28, 2019

Time: 11am to 1pm

April 11, 2019 –

Time: 11am to 1pm

April 25, 2019

San Antonio Winery Event

Time: 11am to 1pm

May 9, 2019 –

Time: 11am to 1pm

May 17, 2019

Time: 11am to 1pm

June 13, 2019

End of the Program Year Bingo!

Time: 11am to 1pm

Location is St. Cross unless otherwise noted

Service Opportunities for Children

Parents have expressed an interest for service opportunities for young children with their families. If you are interested in being on the planning team for these outings, please contact Rev. Robin.

Construction Updates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

architect and the Vestry. This will likely go in around springtime. Cost \$350k. The Vestry knows this takes us over our budget and has a plan to pay back the overage in 3-5 years.

Church Structure: this includes waterproofing the narthex, and the water runoff issues in the chapel, rebrick-ing where the rebar is rusted, painting, gutters, glass doors in the back to keep the heat in and the weather out, and a passage by the lectern. \$400k

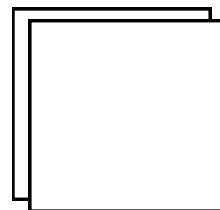
Stained glass window restoration: This will happen when the construction on the church building is complete. Thanks to Sandra Essex and Sarah Ferris for getting us an incredibly good price of \$80k for all of our windows, including the Jesus window.

Kitchen: there are still some choices to be made on the kitchen and we are getting a new bid from our current contractor. We have a placeholder of \$125k for kitchen repair and upgrade.



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

First Class Mail



Messiah Sing-Along

Join in the sing-along on
November 25 at 3 PM!

Back for the 9th year, the Messiah
performance and sing-along is a
wonderful annual tradition.

See page 5 for the rehearsal
schedule and to learn more.

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

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John Tveit—Choirmaster and Organist
Merrill Whatley—Communications Coordinator
David Dawson—Facilities Manager
Cameron Johnson—Connection Coordinator