

NOVEMBER 2019



St. Cross  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Crossroads

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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HANDEL'S MESSIAH

## So Much to Update!

REV. RACHEL

### Capital Campaign Update

Many of you have asked for an update on our capital campaign, both in finances and in work. The work on the education building, the organ, the stained glass windows, and the church have all been completed. As you may recall from previous articles, there was extensive unexpected structural work needed on both the church and the education building. Due to the cost of that work, we have put the elevator and kitchen upgrades on hold as the Vestry does not want to incur more debt than was first agreed upon. At this time what we expect to come in from pledges still due will cover the loan and leave us with some extra. While the Vestry did agree to incur some debt for the elevator, the final

cost was more than the Vestry thought was financially stable. A grant has been applied for to see if some of the cost can be covered from another source. The Vestry will be happy to update you when they have more information. Sean O'Neal has agreed to do an organ crawl, which is a way to show off the new console and what our organ is capable of doing. Stay tuned!

### 1736 Property

The property committee has worked hard the past fourteen months to come up with the best possible plan for our 1736 property. After careful analysis and talking with several experts in the field, they presented their plan to the Vestry last month. They recommended the building to be rehabilitated, and the Vestry voted to approve. To achieve this, there is a need for a loan of \$350k. The Vestry is seeking diocesan approval for the loan, which is pro forma in the Episcopal Church. We hope to start work within the month once the loan is approved. After renovation, the home will be rented. Income will be used to pay off the loan and support 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

# November Calendar Highlights

11/02: Baptism Prep Class  
11/03: All Saints Sunday  
11/03: Baptisms  
11/07: Neighbor to Neighbor  
11/10: Consecration Sunday  
11/10: Messiah Rehearsal—see p 5  
11/11: Veterans Day (Office Closed)  
11/14: Sociable Seniors  
11/15: St. Cross Book Club  
11/17: Messiah Rehearsal—see p 5  
11/19: Folding of *Crossroads*  
11/19: Vestry Meeting  
11/24: St. Monica's Bake Sale  
11/24: Clothing Sale—The Garth  
11/24: Messiah Rehearsal—see p 5  
11/27: Laundry Love  
11/28: Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)  
11/30: Messiah Dress Rehearsal

**More at [stcross.org](http://stcross.org)**

## Consecration Sunday November 10

On Sunday the 10th, there will be one service at 10 AM as we welcome **the Rev. Joseph Dirbas** to inspire us in our spiritual growth and our support of our church's mission and ministry. A celebratory luncheon will follow the service!

Note there is no 8 AM service on the 10th.



*We welcome the Rev. Joseph Dirbas on Nov. 10!*

## ST. CROSS History

Q.

***Did you know St. Cross has a Memorial Book?  
So, where is it kept?***

*Answer on page 6*



# Updates from Rev. Rachel

St. Cross budget, as is the case with our other current rental properties.

## Christmas Tree

For the past several years the South Coast Interfaith Council Women's group has decorated our Christmas Tree. It has been a time for the women to gather and to talk about stories and traditions that are important in our lives. However, this year we will be gathering after the pageant and they will not decorate our tree. At this time there is no group or family that has expressed an interest in both putting up the tree and taking it down at the end of the season. After talking with the Altar Guild and the staff, we have decided not to have a tree this year. This will actually give us more room in the chapel for seating at the crowded 4 PM service. If you have questions about this decision, please see Rev. Rachel.

## Episco-speak: Colors

**Why do some people cross themselves at the Gospel reading, the name of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) when the priest announces absolution of sin after the Confession, and after receiving the Eucharist?** This is a great

question! Making the sign of the cross is an ancient Christian practice. There are several reasons why people decide to physically make the sign of the cross. For some, it is a tangible way to mark ourselves as Christ's own. We are identifying ourselves with the crucified and resurrected Christ. For others, it is a way of consciously setting ourselves apart and deciding to follow the ways of Jesus. Others understand the sign of the cross as sealing the work that God is doing in them. Signing the cross also physically engages our bodies in the acts of worship, like kneeling, standing, and sitting at various points in the service. We want to engage not just in minds in worship, but also our bodies.



## St. Cross Updates

### Daylight Savings Time Ends

Will this be the last time we do this clock-changing thing? Probably not! But we do get to "Fall Back" late on Saturday night, November 2. That gives you an extra hour of rest before All Saints Sunday!

### Shop at Amazon?

Whether for holiday shopping or everyday needs, if you shop at Amazon, simply begin at [stcross.org/amazon](https://stcross.org/amazon)

and all of your purchases can help support your church! Spread the word and help support the ministries of St. Cross.

**Sign up for our weekly email at [stcross.org](https://stcross.org)!**



# Christmas Pageant Prep!

**The St. Cross Christmas Pageant is Sunday, December 15 at 5 PM**

It's that time of year to start thinking about the wonderful tradition of the St. Cross Christmas Pageant! The pageant is a separate service where the children and youth tell the story of Jesus' birth. All children and youth are welcome to participate, but attendance at Sunday School in November and December is needed for preparation. Casting and practice for the pageant songs will begin during these months in Sunday School, so frequent attendance is a big help. There is a required rehearsal on Saturday, December 14 starting at 9 AM for those cast in acting roles. For the whole cast, costuming and makeup start after church on Sunday, December 15 followed by a dress rehearsal that will begin at 3 PM. We also need adult volunteers (lighting, sound, set up, costumes, makeup) so please let Rev. Stephen know if you're able to help. Send a note to [ssmith@stcross.org](mailto:ssmith@stcross.org).



*Scenes from last year's St. Cross Christmas Pageant*

## Community of Open-Hearted Parents (COOP)

**November 10 at 9 AM in Room 4**

Drop your children off at Sunday School and come check out the St. Cross parents' group, Community of Open-Hearted Parents (COOP), on November 10 at 9 AM. COOP gatherings are a great way for parents to connect and share in the experience of raising children. The group will continue to explore Brene Brown's work on open-hearted parenting.

## Youth Choir Rehearsals on Sundays After Church!

**Sundays, 11:15 AM-Noon**

The Youth Choir is an awesome way for children and youth to get involved in worship and learn a variety of singing skills (vocal technique, harmony, basic music theory, just to name a few). Also, the choir will provide a musical offering periodically at the 10 AM service. Singers in grades 3 through 8 are welcome to join the Youth Choir at anytime.

Contact Candace Ford via email at [candaceford1@mac.com](mailto:candaceford1@mac.com) for more details.



# Messiah Sing-Along: Sunday, 12/1



Can you believe it is our TENTH year performing a sing-along of Handel's Messiah? Come join in the experience which marks the beginning of looking towards Christmas in Hermosa Beach.

## **Rehearsals in November:**

Sundays, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24: 1-3 PM

Saturday, 11/30: 9 AM—Noon

## **Performance:**

**Sunday, 12/1 at 3 PM**

Call Time at 1 PM

**Contact:** Sean O'Neal, Director of Music

[soneal@stcross.org](mailto:soneal@stcross.org)

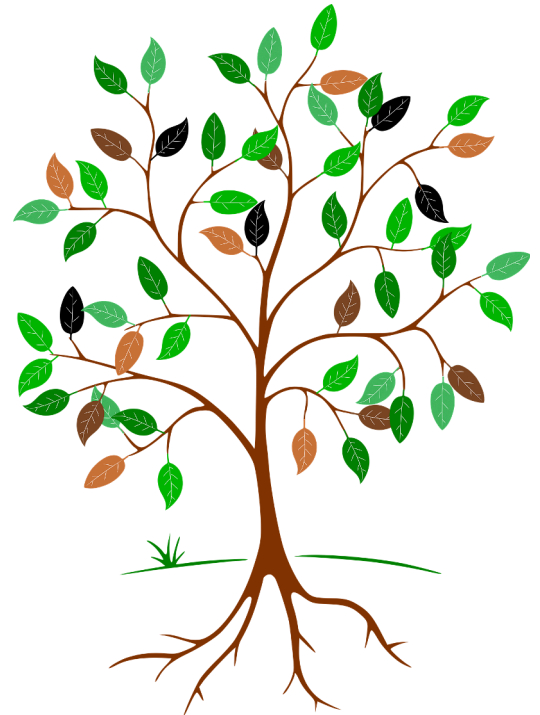
# Giving Tree: Opportunities to Help!

It's never too early to think about Giving Tree! Before we know it, Christmas will be here, and the Giving Tree committee is already hard at work. This year, we're asking for your help!

We are anticipating a very busy time over the weekend of December 7th and 8th. We are hoping we can find some eager volunteers that can help us sort, wrap, and organize all of the gifts. Please email Courtney Shott if you're interested. Reach her at [courtneyshott@hotmail.com](mailto:courtneyshott@hotmail.com)

And because Thanksgiving is so late this year, we decided to start Giving Tree sign-ups a bit earlier to catch anyone that might be out of town. The first Sunday that names will be available for selection will be Sunday, November 10th. As always, we'll be stationed in Parker Hall every Sunday through the beginning of December. The last day to drop off gifts will be Sunday, December 8th.

Thank you in advance for your continued support!



# Pastoral Care Corner

Without a doubt, I find Thanksgiving to be one of my favorite times of the year. Although I love the pumpkin and nutmeg spiced food and the delicious meals with family and friends, Thanksgiving is more than just good food. Thanksgiving provides us an opportunity to offer our gratitude to God for all the things that God has done. We have a chance to give thanks for the people who love us and the people that we love.

There is so much to be thankful for, that the list can be endless -- and isn't that a beautiful thing! There is so much to be thankful for – things like running water so we don't have to endlessly fetch water from a well; cars and buses so that we don't have to walk everywhere; and typed text so that our family, friends, and business partners don't have to decipher our handwriting.

So, as you go about your day, keep taking moments to give thanks. Look for the good, and you will find it. I guarantee it.

**-Rev. Nathan Biornstad**



## It's a Wedding Invitation!

**It's Rev. Nathan and Erol — and YOU are invited!**

The congregation of St. Cross is invited to celebrate the joyous wedding of the Rev. Nathan Allan Biornstad and Erolsten Austria Woo on **Saturday, December 28, 2019 at 10 AM.**

Save the date and let's celebrate!

Look for additional information and reminders in the weekly email and in the next issues of *Crossroads*.

*From page 2*

## ST. CROSS *History*



Our Memorial Book is kept in a glass case in the narthex (the area between the church front doors and the nave – where the congregation sits) by the stairs to the balcony.



# From Habitat for Humanity Build Day



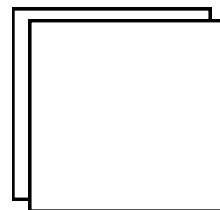
# More St. Cross Pets from the Animal Blessing





1818 Monterey Boulevard · Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 · 310.376.8989 · [www.stcross.org](http://www.stcross.org)

First Class Mail



## Consecration Sunday

Sunday, November 10

**One Service at 10 AM**

followed by a celebratory luncheon!

Special Guest:

**The Rev. Joseph Dirbas**

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

310-376-8989 Phone | 310-379-7389 Fax  
310-561-2444 Pastoral Emergency

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### CHURCH STAFF

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