

OCTOBER 2017



St. Cross
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Crossroads

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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PARISH LIFE

In God We Trust REV. RACHEL

I have preached, not only during our fall stewardship season but throughout the year, that if we want to know where God is in our lives, we just need to look at our wallets. This is not meant to shame or blame any of us, and we certainly have a lot of "other" issues that come and go in our lives. Rather, it is meant to remind us of our relationship with God, and to consider how we respond to God. We would often prefer NOT to talk about money in church. Some would say, "We should be focused on ministry and outreach, not money." And yet, we are a faith community that exists in a secular society, much of whose work is made possible through the generosity of our

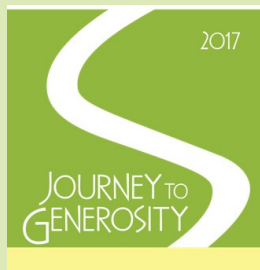
congregants, and so, we actually DO have to talk about money, both personally and within our community.

Each autumn we start talking about our annual giving campaign, or what in the Episcopal world we call "Stewardship," as we are to be stewards of God's kingdom. While we talk about giving year-round, this is the time when you are asked to prayerfully consider what you will give to the church in the next year. Also, as was mentioned on St. Cross Day, the Vestry is preparing for our capital campaign to raise funds to stabilize several different long-term needs on our campus. The differences

between these two types of giving can be confusing, so below I will try to sort out some of the questions that I have been asked.

What is the difference between an annual gift and a capital campaign gift?

Annual giving is the amount of financial support one pledges to give to the church for twelve months and comes from our annual salary. Annual giving pays for regular expenses such as salaries, bills, taxes, utilities, materials and resources that, in short, are what we need in our day to day life to make the church function. A capital campaign gift is



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. William Stanley
Pastoral Care

The Rev. Robin Denney
Christian Formation

ASSISTING

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

11 AM: Sociable Seniors **

* 2nd and 4th Monday

** 2nd and 4th Friday

WEEKLY 12-STEP MEETINGS

Sun: AA 7 PM

Mon: Al-Anon 7 AM
CODA 7:30 PM

Tue: Serenity 7 PM

Wed: Al-Anon 7 AM
CEA 7:30 PM

Thu: Al-Anon 12 Noon

Fri: AA 8 PM

Sat: Al-Anon 10 AM

More info: (310) 376-8989 or
info@stcross.org

October 2017 Calendar

10/01: St. Clare's Parents Gathering, 9 AM, Rm. 4

10/01: Blessing of the Animals, 10 AM

10/03: *Just Mercy* Book Study, 6:30 PM, P. Hall

10/05: Neighbor to Neighbor, 4 PM

10/08: OSL Evensong and Healing Service, 5 PM

10/11: Ordination of The Rev. Robin Denney

10/13: Sociable Seniors, 11 AM, Parker Hall

10/14: Eat, Drink and Be Merry, 6 PM

10/15: Sock Sunday

10/21: Habitat for Humanity Building Project

10/24: Vestry Meeting, 7 PM

10/25: Prayer Shawl Guild, 6 PM, Room 4

10/25: Laundry Love, 7 PM, Clean Scene Laundry

10/27: Sociable Seniors, 11 AM, Parker Hall

Baptisms are on All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 5th. Call the office if interested in taking part!

AED Training Oct. 29

After the 10 AM service, meet at the AED (Automated External Defibrillator, just inside Parker Hall) for a short, free training on its use. Sunday School teachers and ushers encouraged to attend, and all are welcome.

Journey to Generosity

Life is an opportunity. Life is a journey. A journey to saying "yes" to God who calls us the Beloved. Life is a journey to love; a journey to welcome; a journey to invite; a journey to peace; a journey to generosity.



Episcopal Night with the Dodgers

ST. CROSS

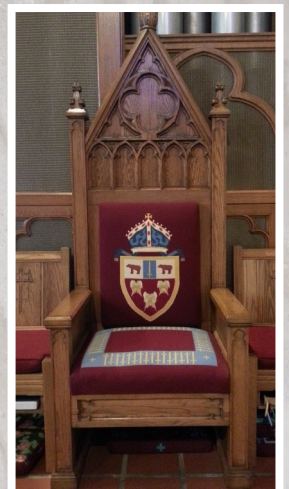
History

Q.

Do you know what the chair is called and why we have it in the church?

Answer on page 6

There is a chair on the left side of the sanctuary (with a needle-pointed back cushion of the seal of the Diocese of Los Angeles) that has a very high back and it is brought out to the steps in the chancel (choir area) for special celebrations.



a gift beyond your annual giving that often comes from your own capital or savings and goes to support capital improvements of our building, such as fixing the organ, making sure the Jesus window is stable and doesn't fall out, education building updates, or putting a second set of (clear) doors at the entrance to the church to keep out the elements (our ushers can testify to the need for this one!)

How do I decide what to give?

For your annual gift you will be invited to Journey to Generosity throughout the month of October. We will explore our own journeys to be generous givers, following not just the path of Jesus, but of Christians before us. If you are able, we always ask you to consider increasing your annual gift by at least 1% as you strive toward tithing at 10%. Your prayerful journey starts with many important considerations such as: are you on a fixed income? What is your debt responsibility? What other significant responsibilities do you have such as caring for your aging parent, tuition, etc.? We recognize that your gift to the church is part of balancing your family's annual budget. What is

a generous gift for you is a matter of proportion. We ask each family to give generously according to their own ability.

In the new year, we will begin to discuss your capital campaign gift. We will officially roll out the campaign, complete with plans, budgets, the whys and wherefores after they have been looked at and approved by the Vestry — with the input from Buildings and Grounds and YOU! Your capital campaign gift is prayerfully considered as a pledge made over time with the understanding that this gift is something you are giving to our generation as well as the next generations, as the earlier generations of St. Cross have done for us for more than 100 years.

Our faith is a part of every aspect of our lives: our family, relationships, connection to creation, politics (on all sides), and yes, even our finances; from our first waking moments until we finally find sleep at night we live and breathe our faith. So yes, Jesus is in our money and in our spending. Join us as we Journey to Generosity this fall.

**Peace,
Rachel+**

Ministry Notes

Adult Pilgrimage to Ireland:

This pilgrimage will take place next Sept 17-27 (-ish). Please email Rev. Rachel if you are interested. A \$500 deposit will be due by the end of November. We would like to gather and meet on October 15 after the 10 am service. There are a few choices that we need to make as group, so would love to have all interested parties there to give ideas.

Calling All 8 and 10 AM

Ushers: Please meet on the front steps of the church at 9:00 AM on Sunday, October 28, 2017 for a group picture. If you are interested in becoming an usher please contact Lee Spivey or Marilyn Young.

Peace & Justice Retreat Oct. 6-8 at Camp Stevens.

Theme of the retreat is "Privilege." If interested, contact Mervis ASAP: (310) 944-0191. Cost is \$165 per person.

Alpha and Omega

Births

Delfina Josephine Peri
(see photo, page 7)

In Memoriam

Al Jackson
Constance Shultz



Celebrating St. Cross Day, September 10

St. Cross Softball

Angels Defense Collapses in 8 – 8 Tie Against Kings Way:

On August 5th, the Angels (3-4-2) fell to a determined Kings Way team in the last inning on a few errors. The meager offense was led by 2-Hit games from Doug Hall (.808); Andy Simon (.370) Double and Mike Welch (.444) 2 RBIs. The 10-Hit offense was complete when Andrew Welch (.560) 2 RBIs; Art Castillo (.607) 3 RBIs; Peggy Hamilton (.333); and Oscar Esquivel (.529) 2 Runs all had a hit. Defense player of the game was Andy who made several sparkling plays at Short Stop. Mike (0-1-1) finished with the tie and remains winless on both teams from the bump.

Angels Capture 2nd Place, McCue, Sullivan & Simon Leading Way in 15 – 5 Win:

The Angels (4-4-2) spanked the first place Student Union team by a 15 – 5 score to even their record to .500 and capture 2nd Place. Three-Hit games by Sean McCue (.857) 2 Doubles, 3 Runs, 2 RBIs; Jim Sullivan (.750); and Andy Simon (.433) 3 RBIs, 2 Runs led the way while Mike Welch (.583) chipped in with a 2-Hit day including a Triple and 4 RBIs. Not to be outdone, Doug Hall (.793) 2 Doubles, 2 Runs; Peggy Hamilton (.444) 3 RBIs, 2 Runs; and a Kings Way player who helped us - Alicia Perez (.667) Double, 2 RBIs contributed greatly. Finishing out the 18-Hit offense with 1 hit were Art Castillo (.581) 2 Runs. Arlene "Knee" Eckert was pulled out of the stands and borrowed tennis shoes and socks to make sure the Angels did not forfeit two games and knocked in 1 Run. Sean (1-0) continued his undefeated pitching season on the mound.

Dodgers Capture "C" Division Championship by Defeating Gethsemane Baptist 10 – 9:

The Dodgers (6-3-1) showed the very young first place Baptist team who is boss in 2017 by barely beating them 10 – 9 to capture the coveted first place trophy. The opponents were ahead 6 – 4 but St. Cross hitters and the Baptist defense lapses allowed us to score 6 runs in the 5th inning. Sean McCue (.522) Triple, 4 RBIs, 2 Runs; Allison May (.478) Double and Mike Welch (.607) Double, 2 Runs led the way with 2-Hits each. Aaron Rose (.625); Justin Hoffman (.560) Double; Jack Williams (.545); Andy Simon (.750) and Susan Hink (.333) all contributed a hit each. Defensive plays by Short Stop Justin kept the fast Baptist runners in check. Sean (6-0) had an undefeated season pitching this year.

Bruce Dolph Honored: Before these August 5th games, Bruce Dolph was honored for his 24 years of playing softball for St. Cross. Bruce decided to retire from the diamond this year and thus was given a framed picture of his famous number 12 jersey.

sey. We will miss Bruce on the diamond and appreciate all of his energy and effort over the years!

The Last Inning Wrap-Up :

The final 2017 results are in and we hope everybody had some fun and fellowship for the 25th year of playing co-ed softball in the South Bay Church Athletic League. The Dodgers (6-3-1) captured the "C" Division Championship on the last day of the season. The Angels (4-4-2) captured the "D" Division 2nd Place



Trophy for their great year. The Angels (.546) out hit the Dodgers (.508) for the year. The Angels were led by Doug Hall (.793) and Jim Sullivan (.750) batting averages while the Dodgers were led by Jamie O'Grady (.700), Jeff Ramsey (.645) and Aaron Rose (.625). Top power performances (slugging percentage) for the year goes to Alex Rima (1.583) with 2 Home Runs, Sean McCue (1.033) with 2 Home Runs and Jeff Ramsey (1.032). The Women Angels were led by Allison May (.857) plus Allison (.478) and Autumn Hoffman (.467) led the way for the Women Dodgers. Rookies of the Year go to Alex Rima who had an overall batting average of (.542) while Allison May contributed an overall (.567) average for both teams. Defensive players for the year go to Jeff Ramsey, Aaron Rose, Andy Simon, Allison May and Eileen Mathews. This year we had 8 new people join the softball teams and most were young who have replaced some of the older generation ready to retire.

The 34 players who played were: Caren Brownlie; Shane & Eileen Mathews; Britney & Brianne Bosnak; Dana & Jeff Ramsey, Macy Jaeger, Art Castillo; Mike, Matthew &

Andrew Welch; Bruce & Megan Difley; Jamie O'Grady; Jim Sullivan; Oscar Esquivel; Doug Hall; Sean McCue; Mike McGough; Jack Williams; Rich Wenzel; Andy Simon; Aaron Rose; Autumn & Justin Hoffman; Peggy & Bill Hamilton; Carol Herchelmann; Susan Hink; Allison May; Hanna Jeong, Arlene Eckert and Alex Rima. Because we are always short of players, 16 played games for both teams – thanks bunch for your dedication on those multiple game days.

Thanks to all the wives and husbands who baby sit the kids on the sidelines plus we cannot forget the coaches' wives who let the boys be out there on Saturdays – Candace Ford and Malinda Difley.



Ordination: Wed., Oct. 11 at 7 PM

I am very excited to be ordained as a priest, here at St. Cross! This summer working as your associate for Christian Formation has been a great time of getting to know this wonderful community, and living into this new role in my life of being a clergy person.

In the Episcopal Church, we have three different orders of ordained clergy: priests, deacons, and bishops. There are different focuses in the work of each order. Deacons have a particular ministry of preaching the Gospel, connecting the church to the world, and caring for those in need. Priests are called to care for all people, to celebrate communion, to bless, and to assure people of God's forgiveness.



Those who are to be ordained as priests, are first ordained as transitional deacons, and spend at least six months in that order. I have been so blessed by my time as a deacon. It has formed me, reminded me in a deep way of the importance of humility and of caring for those in need. I have been honored to serve as a deacon alongside Rev. Patti, who is a permanent deacon. This community is blessed to have her witness and ministry with us!

I have known for some time that I have been called to be a priest, and it has been a process of discerning and preparation, which has now come to a close. But becoming a priest is something that will happen not just when I am ordained, but also will continue to happen as I serve in your midst, as I celebrate communion with you, as I meet with the Sunday School teachers, as I visit the dying.

So I thank you for what you have taught me already about being a priest, and what you will continue to teach me! And I am so thankful for this opportunity to be with you, to learn with you, and to serve Christ together!

You are all welcome to attend the ordination, which will be followed by a reception in Parker Hall.

Journey to Generosity

Beginning in October, you are invited to participate in the Journey to Generosity, our Stewardship/Annual Giving Campaign. Throughout the month we'll share stories, scripture and reflections to help us see where generosity is present in our lives, and how Jesus might be calling us as his follower to understand and express it more deeply.

You can journey to generosity in several ways: Participate in Sunday services, read stories in the Crossroads newsletter, follow our weekly reflections in the E-newsletter and posted on our Facebook page. Engage one another in conversations about generosity and what it means to you. And, On All Saints Day, November 5th, we'll join together to celebrate the loving and generous St. Cross Community! See more from Rev. Rachel on page 1.

Looking Ahead...

This year, the 4th Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve. We will have special service times on this day.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Dec. 24

One Morning Service at 9:00 AM

Christmas Eve Services: Dec. 24

4 PM Eucharist

9 PM Carols with Eucharist to Follow at 9:30

Christmas Day Service

One Service at 10 AM

It'll be here before you know it!

Pastoral Care Corner

THE REV. WILLIAM STANLEY

Let Us Know! I grew up in church. I've been around an Episcopal Church all my life. As I was exposed to new Episcopal communities in college, seminary, and my first parish as a priest, I began to note how even amidst the particularity of each place, there were some robust threads of continuity between all of them.

One such thread on the more serious end involves how clergy and lay ministers interact with folks in the context of pastoral care. Every community I've been a part of has sought to be even better at tracking and responding to those in need of care and support. It's the nature being a human community that mistakes will be made and we will fall short of perfection. Yet one way to ensure we are doing the best we can is simply to communicate more effectively. There's an old adage in church life that from time to time folks have a remarkable faith in us clergy to be mind-readers...ones who will come visit them even though no word has gotten to us that they are in need in the first place!

For many if not most of us, asking for help does not come naturally. That's just as true for clergy as it is for lay people. Communicating that kind of vulnerable information requires trust which comes through relationship, which is built up over time. If I've seen anything over these past months, it is that at St. Cross we already do a very good job of this...above average for parishes of our size and scope, I might add. AND we can always seek to be more communicative and responsive! So I hope you'll let us know when things come up, so we can be there with you and for you.

And if you would like to get involved with this work in a small, low commitment way, consider one of the following ministries here at St. Cross: Prayer Circle, Give a Meal or Give a Ride. Each provides an opportunity to live out our care for one another in particular ways. Come find me at coffee hour or send me an email if you'd like to learn more about these ministries!

All the best, Will+

wstanley@stcross.org



A Belated Thank You

This is a very belated, yet heartfelt thank you to all of the people who reached out to me after my father's death in May. I had originally hoped to write notes to all of you who sent cards, but realize that might not happen. So thank you to our awesome St. Cross community who wrote me notes and lifted my family in prayer through this time of grief.

I am so thankful to serve this community.

Rev. Rachel+

A Note of Thanks

Please accept my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the cards and expressions of sympathy I received on the death of my son, Joe Arcos.

Wanda Arcos

ST. CROSS *History*



It is called the bishop's chair and it is used when the bishop is at the church for special services, such as confirmation, ordination, institution of a rector. It will be placed at the top of the chancel steps next for the Rev. Robin Denney's ordination to the priesthood on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, at the 7pm service. The Rt. Rev. Mary Gray Reeves, bishop in the Diocese of El Camino Real (just north of us on the coast) will preside because that is Rev. Robin's home diocese.

From page 2

Habitat for Humanity Build: Oct. 21

Our next Habitat For Humanity build date will be 8am to 3pm on Saturday, October 21st, in South Los Angeles. As usual, we would love to make this a whole-parish event with everyone's help in one way or another ... either as a worker/builder, with meal preparation, financial donations and/or, most importantly, with your prayers.

We will need 20 to 25 builders that day (ages 16 and older) as well as help preparing food to feed them. And anything you can contribute towards the \$2500 fee for the day will be greatly appreciated.

For teens not quite meeting the 16-year-old age requirement, the Habitat For Humanity 'ReStore' is a great way to get high school community service credits. 'ReStore' is Habitat for Humanity's brand of nonprofit home improvement stores and donation centers. They sell new and gently used furniture, appliances, home accessories, building materials and more to the public at a fraction of the retail price. 'ReStore' is always looking for volunteers. To sign up for this, for the build, or to get more information, please see John Cheslick or Dan Wilson at the table in Parker Hall before and after the 10am services on Sundays beginning October 1st.



Parish Life

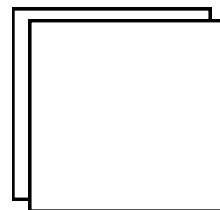
Scenes from St. Cross Day & A New Life in Our Church
Follow at [instagram.com/stcrosshermosa](https://www.instagram.com/stcrosshermosa)





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First Class Mail



Blessing of the Animals Oct. 1

Bring your pets, your neighbors, and your neighbors' pets for our furriest church service of the year. At our Sunday, Oct. 1st 10 AM service, we will continue the tradition of blessing those animals who bless our lives!

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

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