

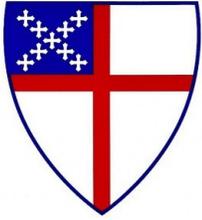
THE ANCHOR

MAY 2016

The monthly newsletter of St. Clements by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

Welcoming all since 1929

Father Patrick Crerar is on sabbatical April 1 through June 30.



**Member, Anglican
Communion**

PARISH MISSION:

*Follow Christ through
the way we live and
love, spreading the
good news of God in
Christ, opening our
hearts to all, and
experience and spread
joy in the process.*

**“This Church of
Ours is Open To
All...There Will
Be No Outcasts.”**

-The Most Rev. Edmund
Browning *Emeritus*
Presiding Bishop
of the Episcopal Church



The Spirituality of Work

By Judy Johnson

Senior Warden

Being at the church most days during this time of Father Patrick's sabbatical has been a joyful and eye-opening experience for me.

There is a buzz, a hum, of continuous activity at the church. I had no idea our parish home is so busy, so engaged in the community, so much of the time.

I have become much more aware of the many parishioners coming to the church to perform volunteer activity. Each person has found something that speaks to him or her, as they put a God-given gift to work, doing God's work – tutoring, preparing the weekly worship service bulletin, proving contact with the recovery groups meeting on the premises, taking Eucharist to shut-ins; the list goes on as the people of St. Clement's quietly offer their labor.

Seeing a continuous flow of volunteers at St. Clements prompted me to dig deeper into the **spirituality of work itself.**

I was referred to a book, *The Practice of the Presence of God*, which is the collected teachings of Brother Lawrence, a 17th-century Carmelite monk. Brother Lawrence had WONDERFUL thoughts on the spirituality of work. Below are excerpts from his writings, as recorded by a priest at the monastery.

So, likewise, in his business in the kitchen (to which Brother Lawrence had naturally a great aversion), having accustomed himself to do everything there for the love of GOD, and with prayer, upon all occasions, for His grace to do his work well, he had found everything easy, during the fifteen years that he had been employed there.

Continued on next page

His very countenance was edifying; such a sweet and calm devotion appearing in it, as could not but affect the beholders.

And it was observed, that in the greatest hurry of business in the kitchen, he still preserved his recollection and heavenly-mindedness. He was never hasty nor loitering, but did each thing in its season, with an even uninterrupted composure and tranquility of spirit.

*(Brother Lawrence said that) **we ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of GOD, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed.***

What I have learned, from my observations, these readings, and personal reflection, is that:

Every task that we each perform to the best of our abilities here at St. Clement's is an offering to our earthly community and to our divine Father;

The time spent performing the task is, during those moments, time for continuous prayer;

God honors the spirit of all work, and blesses it.

Here is a wondrous final passage from Father Lawrence:

"The time of business," said he, "does not with me differ from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clutter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess GOD in as great tranquility as if I were upon my knees at the Blessed Sacrament."

I give thanks for all who give of their time at St. Clement's, and hope that all of us recognize our work as prayer and praise of God.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. CLEMENT'S IN MAY

Whether your interest is reading, a night out,
volunteering to help others, or just good St. Clement's fellowship,
there is an activity for you this Month!

Watch for details for the following events in the weekly Sunday bulletin.

3rd: Dinner and book Discussion, 5:00PM, Rocco's



8th: Mother's Day Brunch, 11:30AM, Parish Hall



13th: Anchor's Potluck Supper Club, 7:00PM, The Johnson's house



15th: Sandwich making for the Welcome Inn, 1:00PM, Parish Hall



30th: Memorial Day, office will be closed



CABARET

June 18th

6:00 PM

St. Clement's by the Sea

ADMISSION

General Seating: \$50

Limited Front Row Seating: \$75

Gourmet Bites by Rocco

**Sumptuous dessert buffet by local merchants and
Judy Johnson**

Entertainment

By Larry Gates and his Upbeat Cats

Surprise Local talent

Guest appearance by Burns and Allen

Champagne and wine bar— first glass is free!

Free baby-sitting provided

**Buy your tickets at coffee hour or online at
www.scbythesea.org**



Beach clean up day success!

Thank you to all who came and participated in our beach clean up day. What a success! We had 37 individuals show up to clean our earth, the largest single group out there!



Something for Everyone

Dinner & Book Discussion

Tuesday, May 3rd at 5pm.

Stef Penney:

The Tenderness of Wolves



Book Description:

A brilliant and breathtaking debut that captivated readers and garnered critical acclaim in the United Kingdom, The Tenderness of Wolves was long-listed for the Orange Prize in fiction and won the Costa Award (formerly the Whitbread) Book of the Year.

For further information please contact Pat Corless 949-218-3960

Anchors Potluck Supper Club on May 13th

Join us on **Friday, May 13th at 7:00 PM.**

Hosted by: Judy and Mark Johnson

Taking place at:

223 Calle Campesino

San Clemente CA 92672

Please sign up during coffee hour to bring a dish.

Your name must be on the list for the guard.

Gated community



Last Call for Photos and Contact Information for Parish Directory

If you missed your pictures for the parish directory please contact the church office. The office also needs your up-to-date contact information. Thank you!

info@scbythesea.org

949-492-3401



New Youth Group

St. Clement's Community Youth Group will be campaigning this summer! We will be hosting kickball games all summer at various locations. More info to come soon! This group is open to anyone in the community ages 8 and older. Our focus is community service while still having fun. If you or someone you know may be interested please contact the church office or Kyle and Kasey Carey. Donations for our campaign are also needed. Contact:

kasey@scbythesea.org or 949-228-8575

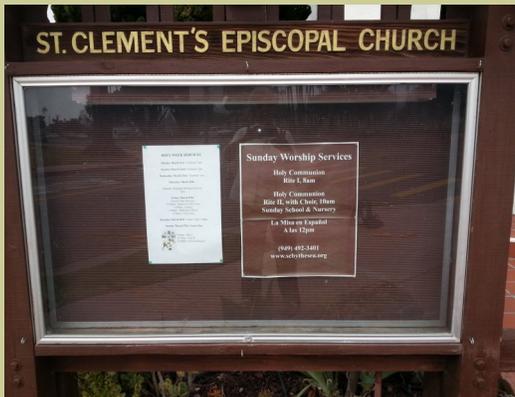
**KEEP
CALM
AND
PLAY
KICKBALL**

Brightening up our Welcome

The St. Clement's marquee is what newcomers first see when they walk or drive by our church, or when they first enter the sanctuary to worship with us. It's also currently the only place where our church name is displayed.

A group of volunteers have joined their skills to replace or repair the rotten wood, and a painting project is underway. We also have new white signage with large, clear letters to provide worship information, and also to proclaim our affiliation with the Episcopal Church USA and the worldwide Anglican Communion. (This is especially necessary in Orange County, where there are several "breakaway" Episcopal churches affiliated with the Southern Cone, a Latin American organization.)

While this big project will not be complete until sometime in May, let's recognize the skilled woodworking contributions of Mike Badstubner, and the cleaning and painting preparation contributions of Joe and Kate Wharton.



BEFORE NEW MESSAGE BOARD



BEFORE –WOOD DAMAGE



AFTER- New message board, marquee repair in process by Mike and Nancy Badstubner

Clean up progression

The general clean up, throw-out, tidy-up project for 8 rooms in the parish building was started and finished in May, thanks to many volunteers.

Working room-by-room in two hour shifts, "lost" items were found and put in the right places, 15 boxes of out-of-date paperwork going back 20 years were discarded, and each of the four potential rental rooms were emptied, painted as needed, and will be ready to advertise in May.

As a bonus, the hallways both upstairs and downstairs were repaired and touched up.

The only work remaining for May is to sweep and thoroughly scrub all the linoleum floors in the basement.

The mighty cleaning volunteers for the education building included Tina Borden, Tom Card, Peter Knapp, Sue King, Bertie Lloyd, Deborah and Bill Loftus, and Patty Welliver. New church member Tommy Lee West did all the patch up and painting.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!

If you know anyone looking for quiet and affordable office space, please contact the church office.



Sabbatical Coverage

For pastoral emergencies please call:

The Rev. Will Crist
949-355-6013

The Rev. Steve Schuneman
858-877-8766

The Rev. Norm Freeman
949-874-2527

LAST CALL!

The Last day is May 31st to purchase tiles
for June engraving!

Contact the church office to get your order
in.

Centering Prayer Group
meets each Monday at
6:00pm in the Library

For more information,
please contact Matt Duncan

Parish Register

May/Mayo

Happy Birthday / Feliz Cumpleaños



Claudia Berber	1
Elaine Viele	2
Mel Mothershead	3
Rod Rodriguez	5
Bob Corless	7
Bob Gergen	8
Iliana Farias	8
Christian Miller	11
Grayson Wallett	11
Shirley Wilson	14
Myrna Gray	15
Kevin Delgado	18
Lannea Hazzard	19
Deborah Neville	22
Christi Seminoff	24
Frederick Langford	25
Alejandra Martinez	28
Ruth Harvey	30
Stewart Stropp	31
Gunnar Carey	31

Happy Anniversary / Feliz Aniversario



Patrick & Christina Crerar	6
James & Kristina Borden	20
Stephen & Thuy Jones	20

<i>St. Clement's by-the-Sea</i>						May 2016
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 am Rite I 10 am Rite II 10 am Sunday School 12 pm Eucaristía en Español	2 9:30 am Counters 6 pm Meditation 8 pm AA 8 pm NA	3 3:00-6:30 pm Peaceful Warrior 5:00 pm Dinner & Book Discussion 6:30 pm PW Adult Class 7 pm NA	4 3:00-6:30 pm Peaceful Warrior 7 pm CA	5 3:00-6:30 pm Peaceful Warrior 6:30 pm PW Adult Class 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 6:30 pm ESL 7 pm WAA 8 pm AA	7
8 8 am Rite I 10 am Rite II 10 am Sunday School 11:30 am Mother's day brunch 12 pm Eucaristía en Español	9 9:30 am Counters 6 pm Meditation 8 pm AA 8 pm NA	10 3:00-6:30 pm Peaceful Warrior 6:30 pm PW Adult Class 7 pm NA	11 3:00-6:30 pm Peaceful Warrior 7 pm CA	12 3:00-6:30 pm Peaceful Warrior 6:30 pm PW Adult Class 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 6:30 pm ESL 7 pm Anchor's Potluck Supper 7 pm WAA 8 pm AA	14
15 Pentecost 8 am Rite I 10 am Rite II 10 am Sunday School 12 pm Eucaristía en Español 1 pm Sandwich Making	16 9:30 am Counters 6 pm Meditation 8 pm AA 8 pm NA	17 3:00-6:30 pm Peaceful Warrior 6:30 pm PW Adult Class 7 pm NA	18 3:00-6:30 pm Peaceful Warrior 7 pm CA	19 3:00-6:30 pm Peaceful Warrior 6:30 pm PW Adult Class 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	20 6:30 pm ESL 7 pm WAA 8 pm AA	21
22 8 am Rite I 10 am Rite II 10 am Sunday School 12 pm Eucaristía en Español	23 9:30 am Counters 6 pm Meditation 8 pm AA 8 pm NA	24 3:00-6:30 pm Peaceful Warrior 6:30 pm PW Adult Class 7 pm NA	25 3:00-6:30 pm Peaceful Warrior 7 pm CA	26 3:00-6:30 pm Peaceful Warrior 6:30 pm PW Adult Class 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	27 6:30 pm ESL 7 pm WAA 8 pm AA	28
29 8 am Rite I 10 am Rite II 12 pm Eucaristía en Español	30 9:30 am Counters 6 pm Meditation 8 pm AA 8 pm NA	31 3:00-6:30 pm Peaceful Warrior 6:30 pm PW Adult Class 7 pm NA	1 3:00-6:30 pm Peaceful Warrior 7 pm CA	2 3:00-6:30 pm Peaceful Warrior 6:30 pm PW Adult Class 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 6:30 pm ESL 7 pm WAA 8 pm AA	4

Meditations by the Rev. Will Crist
Presented to St. Clement's on April 24th, 2016

Over the last couple of years I've been spending time with people who have been out of my comfort zone.

As long as I could see what I was doing was struggling with the problems of hunger, alcoholism, drug addiction, homelessness and social injustice, I had a place to put my discomfort. I was doing good things for people.

As long as I could treat them as individuals who needed help, deserving poor for whom I am solving problems, or homeless individuals who needed assistance, I could at least compensate for my discomfort by giving them the help they needed. I was willing to solve problems. I wouldn't say that I would go out of my way to spend time with them. It was almost as if it were a social service task. It was like I was giving thirsty people a cup of cold water, just like Jesus said to do in the gospel. After all, it was part of my priestly responsibility to do so.

Some were living in their cars. Some were living in the city park. Some were even living in tents in the river bottom. When I saw these problems of homelessness, I decided they needed a place to live. I began to look for resources: people who could build housing, people who could donate money for housing, or people who would take some of these folks into their own homes and rent them a room. I was looking for resources I could bring to the individuals with problems.

There were others who were recovering from alcoholism or addiction to drugs like methamphetamine, marijuana, and heroin. I saw the needs of these individuals and focused on trying to deliver support to them so they could sustain their recovery. I began to read books on addiction to find out what I could do to help. I re-read the Alcoholics Anonymous big book then I read the Narcotics Anonymous book. I read several books about the Vancouver drug maintenance program as well as five or six other books about contemporary systems for handling addictions. I continued to see them as individuals and as problems that needed to be solved. I began to be frustrated by the lack of compassionate systems to help these recovering alcoholics and drug addicts in such difficult straits. I tried to speak for them in places where resources could be brought to bear on the problems.

And then I saw the hungry and those in despair. I thought maybe helping them get a job would be a way to supply solutions to their needs so I spoke with business people and asked them to consider hiring these people. I rejoiced

when there were institutions like Second Harvest and Starbucks and Panera and even the University of California at Riverside who donated leftover food to the hungry. Some of these institutions even delivered the food to the places where we were serving.

I certainly think that what I was doing was being compassionate and being open to the possibility of helping individuals who were in trouble or who had needs. I did not build fences around my home to keep people like these out. In fact I traveled from my home in Laguna Beach to Riverside to help solve these problems. I opened myself to the difficulties and injustices in our society. I believed I was doing what Jesus asked me to do: give to the poor, find food for the hungry to feed them, and assist those struggling with problems like addictions with whatever services were available.

Each Thursday, as I sat on the train from Irvine station to Riverside, I searched for solutions to these problems. I called resources on the phone. I searched the Internet. I dreamed of plans that could be used to bring needed resources to those who were struggling. But the problems didn't go away.

In the first couple of years, my wife, who is the priest in charge of the community, invited everyone to help to create a weekly dinner to be served in the former parish hall. After the dinner she celebrated a simple Eucharist for anyone who wanted to stay. Members of the community who had served or cleaned or who were living in one of the former Sunday school classrooms attended. The Eucharist was informal, and it made sense to sit around several tables pushed together to talk about the gospel lesson and to pray for the struggles we were facing, and the needs of others we knew.

After several years of participating in the community dinners and the Eucharist each Thursday evening, an interesting thing began to happen. As I begin to simply be present, I begin to discover that they are not just problems to be solved. They are not just individuals in need. I became aware they are actually *people* with lives filled with joy, contentment, hopes, and dreams as well as struggles and sadness. They are people to be encountered, experienced, and enjoyed. This sneaked up on me. I wasn't prepared for this transformation.

The more time I spend in that dining room with these people, the more I understand the lives they are leading. Their lives are sometimes frustrating because of the constraints they experience, but there are also times of great joy. They aren't always alone. They have friends. They have places to go, lives to live, and they often share stories

about their experiences. I enjoy being with these people. They are *people* rather than individuals with problems. Somewhere along the line I even begin to love being with them. They become my friends. What I had seen as their problems didn't go away, but as people – real people – they are more important than their problems. There are still frustrations, difficulties, and seemingly unsolvable problems. These are the backdrop to relationships I cherish. As we discuss the gospel lessons each week and share in the bread and wine (grape juice in the chalice to be hospitable to those who are recovering alcoholics), I continue to be transformed from a problem-solver to a fellow human being even as we are transformed from a group of strangers into a community and even a family. The parish hall becomes a Eucharistic hall. The dinner was the place for people to gather. What started off as a dinner in a parish hall, becomes a Eucharistic feast.

As I look back, I can see something about what happens: individuals with problems become people in a community. People who were separate from one other become close. We begin to know each other. One of the things that became very important was birthdays. It seemed fairly simple to celebrate birthdays as they came. When the community learned of people's birthdays, they began to prepare for them. Each month a large cake was prepared, with candles, often with ice cream. While this might be seen as a simple recognition, we learned that some of the 100 or so people who gathered every week for dinner on Thursday evening had never celebrated their birthday. Coming from abusive foster family experiences or dysfunctional families, they didn't feel worthy. When the community began to celebrate birthdays on one of the Thursdays each month, some people worked very hard to be present for their birthday. This became a defining event for people. These homeless people were not only tolerated, they were celebrated! They were important. It was a little overwhelming to find out that some of the people had never had a birthday party. They had never heard someone sing Happy Birthday to them. My heart melted.

What was, at one time for me, a place to find solutions for all the problems individuals brought forward, became a holy place where people are celebrated as special, important, and loved. This gathering became a community of people with hope. And these people, myself included, began to love one other. The longer I came to dinner each week, the more I began to actually enjoy and love being with each of these people.

As Lent became Easter this year, I began to think about the role of the Holy Spirit in our community. Isn't this what was going on with the early Christians? They discovered an energy that helped them serve each other and even love each other more. They wrote about the experience of the Holy Spirit in the gospel stories and in the letters that

went from church to church. In the early church, people came together who otherwise would not even have known each other. They first came because Jesus called them. They discovered a spirit of love that drew them into deeper relationships whenever they gathered. When Jesus left, they discovered the Holy Spirit took his place.

We experience that in our community as well. We are discovering the same thing the men and women gathered together in the upper room, where they locked themselves in because they were afraid of the Temple Police and the Roman soldiers, discovered. They discovered: when people gathered in the name of Jesus, a transforming power of love fills the room. They are able to be together in the midst of love that transcends the limitations and fear they experience as individuals. We, too, discover the experience those early Christians called being the body of Christ. I experience the power of the Holy Spirit to transform what I once saw as a world with many problems to be solved into a community of people who love each other and experience the love of the Creator for them.

The stories in the post-Easter gospel lessons are essentially the same stories I hear from the people who gather every Thursday evening on Jackson Street in Riverside. Where I once saw individuals with problems, Mary and Peter saw an empty tomb to be explained, Thomas despaired at missing the experience of Jesus others told him about, and Chloe was fled to Emmaus in fear. When I stopped seeing individuals as problems to be solved and experienced them as people who loved me and whom I loved, I could say with Mary and Peter, Thomas and Chloe, "Jesus is present in this room. The Holy Spirit is with us. Now and forever."

As I prepared for this homily by listening to the seventeen people who gathered around the Eucharistic table this week to discuss the gospel lesson, I was struck senseless for a moment: the people I was sitting with, reflecting on Jesus' new commandment to love one another, are disciples of Jesus. They are leaders on the cutting edge in the Jesus movement. Their hopes and dreams and their struggles are not unlike the hopes, dreams and struggles of those men and women who were with Jesus in that upper room when he gave them the new commandment to love one another. *We are those people. We are the Jesus movement.*

Indeed, the disciples who gather around the table every Thursday evening in Riverside appear to me, no longer as problems to be solved, but as fellow disciples, members of the body of Christ. Together we are community. Together we are leaders called to be part of the Jesus movement who come together each week to enjoy each other and share in the experience of the Holy Spirit and the love of God. The early disciples were known for the way they loved one another and other people. May all of us come to be known in the same way.

St. Clement's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

202 Avenida Aragon
San Clemente, CA 92672

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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St. Clement's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church



Follow us on Instagram!
@stclements1929

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8 a.m. Holy Communion Rite I, Nursery
10 a.m. Holy Communion Rite II with
Choir, Nursery, Sunday School
12 p.m. La Misa en Español

OFFICE HOURS

8 am- 1:30 pm Mon, Weds, Thurs
8 am- 12:30 pm Tues, Fri

CHURCH STAFF

RECTOR ~ The Rev. Patrick Crerar
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR ~ Kasey Carey
MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST ~ Larry Gates
SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR ~ Sarah Harrison
SEXTON ~ Bartley Ashbaugh
WEEKEND SEXTON ~ Pilar Corral

St. Clement's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church
San Clemente's Historic Landmark #1

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