

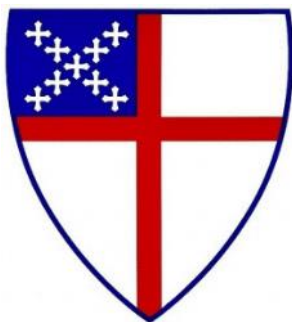


THE ANCHOR

JUNE 2019

St. Clement's by-the-Sea
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcoming all since 1929



**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



Ascension...

As I write this article, it is the Ascension, one of those holy days little marked in modern times on its actual date. But here, forty days after the Resurrection, is when – according to St. Luke – Jesus ascended into heaven in full view of his disciples. He promised them that soon they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, which will be fulfilled just ten days later at Pentecost. So, this is a pivotal event, Christ' Ascending, which connects us both to events that have already happened, and to events which are yet coming.

This is the day when the Son ascends to his rightful place, at the right hand of the Father, and yet he will not leave us comfortless or alone. We glory in his Ascension, as he brings his full divinity and our full humanity into the eternal life of the Trinity. We might say that when Jesus rose from the dead, he raised us from the ground. Now as he ascends to the Father, he raises our humanity to the heavens. We have a new dignity and destination, and we now share in the divine life with him.

Though Luke is our most descriptive source for the event itself, Christ' Ascension is referred to elsewhere in Holy Scripture. Reflecting how his rising connects with his earlier crucifixion and resurrection, we hear in the Letter to the Hebrews, where Christ' Ascension is described in this way, “He entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption...For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.” (9:12; 24)

We turn then to how this event points us toward the future, we hear as Christ in preparing his disciples for his departing, promises them that he will yet be present to them. “I will not leave you orphaned¹...I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you...Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father.” (John 14:18, 25-28).

How, you might ask, can Christ be both in heaven and very present to us when we need him? How can he be simultaneously present in our hearts, hearing the prayers and yearnings of all the world, and beseeching the Father's mercy for us in the realm of glory? We can answer this deep mystery in more than one way. We can simply admit that which is impossible for us, is possible for God. We can also say that the Holy Spirit, the promised one who is coming, manifests the Son of God to us, wherever and whenever we are in time and space.

...Continued on next page



The great English poet and Anglican priest, John Donne, put it this way:

“Salute the last, and everlasting day,
 Joy at the uprising of this Sun, and Son,
 Ye whose true tears, or tribulation
 Have purely wash'd, or burnt your drossy clay.
 Behold, the Highest, parting hence away,
 Lightens the dark clouds, which He treads upon;
 Nor doth he by ascending show alone,
 But first He, and He first enters the way.
 O strong Ram, which hast batter'd heaven for me!
 Mild lamb, which with Thy Blood hast mark'd the path!
 Bright Torch, which shinest, that I the way may see!
 O, with Thy own Blood quench Thy own just wrath;
 And if Thy Holy Spirit my Muse did raise,
 Deign at my hands this crown of prayer and praise”²

As I mention above, St. Luke is the one who presents us with the Ascension in its greatest detail. After Jesus says to his apostles that the Holy Spirit will soon descend upon them (and that they will be his witnesses in all the world), the Book of Acts—part 2 of Luke's gospel—tells us, “When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’” (1:9-11).

Can you imagine being there that day? This event has captured the imaginations of artists throughout the centuries, who have created works depicting what it must have been like that day. Many of those scenes show Jesus simply rising from amongst his small band of disciples, often with Mary, his mother, also present. Sometimes you'll see just the disciples (and Mary) looking upward as Christ' feet dangle from a cloud above, and the two angels addressing Jesus' awestruck followers. Salvador Dali presents the Ascension in a more imaginative way and from an unexpected perspective. In his rendering, you are looking up as Christ ascends, i.e. as one of the apostles.

To my mind, there are two just astounding images of the Ascension, which I'd encourage everyone to see. One is by the American-born painter, John Singleton Copley (for whom Copley Square is named) and can be seen at the Boston Museum of Fine Art. There is something about that image that holds me transfixed, I cannot look away. The other is by the 16th century, Italian painter, Tintoretto. In his work, we see Christ riding up the backs of angels who carry him up, palm and olive branches in their hands, there is so much movement and action in the image, and the two angels who remain to address to the apostles are none other than Moses and Elijah, connecting this event to the Transfiguration earlier.

There is an exhibition of Tintoretto's masterpieces at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC just now, but I don't know if this work is included among them. You can see any of the images I reference above on-line. What about you? What does Christ' Ascension mean to you? What does the scene look like in your own imagination? What do you think you'd see if you were there that day?

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Patrick

¹ Other translations have “comfortless” in place of “orphaned.”

² <https://poets.org/poem/ascension>

A call to preparedness - Natural Disasters

These past couple of weeks we have been watching in horror how the Mid-west part of our country gets devastated by a wave of powerful tornadoes. The images that we see through the different communication media outlets are heartbreaking and incredibly scary. Stories of survival, community solidarity, brave rescue missions, the loss of lives, the loss of animals and material belongings are to be found in every story we hear.

Recently, I heard from a church member at Messiah, a powerful story of survival. This parishioner's family received the tornado warning and were able to hide in a room, not the basement or a room designed to protect them from a tornado, but the closest place they found. They told her how loud the sound was and how the seconds lasted so long until finally the wind, the shaking of the walls and the loud noise stopped. When they opened the door of that room where they were hiding, they realized that it was the only room standing in their house and how fortunate they were to have survived.

Unfortunately, our world is in great need of healing and it is screaming to us to realize how much damage we are doing to this beautiful creation that God has entrusted to our stewardship. Science supports climate change and global warming. A senior scientist of the National Center for Atmosphere Research in Boulder, Colorado explains "Climate change is causing ocean temperatures and global surface temperatures to increase, which in turn drives atmospheric instability when warm, moist air moves across the middle of the country... All of this provides more fuel for thunderstorms and sets the stage for tornadoes to develop." This is just one example in our country of how our Mother Earth is telling us that we must change the way we treat her.

On Thursday, people from Central America woke up to a strong earthquake that shook the earth violently. The country most affected was El Salvador who experienced an earthquake of 6.6. Fortunately, there were no lives lost. That was not the case of people in Peru who just this past Sunday experienced an earthquake of 8.0 which caused damage in the Amazon jungle in North-Central Peru. How do we respond to such disasters?

Natural disasters and human suffering have always challenged people of faith because we don't understand why God would allow such things to happen. We may not hold all the answers to that question, but I would like to take this moment to assure you that God does not use creation against us as a form of punishment. We believe in a God who is loving, compassionate and merciful. God does not only suffer with us, but also works through us. God uses you and me to bring healing to this broken world. Paul's assertion that we are the body of Christ is a profound statement of faith. God empowers, sanctifies and commissions us to go into the world and be Christ's healing and helping presence to others.

Our Episcopal Church does an amazing work through *Episcopal Relief & Development* to be that helping presence all around the world. They offer not only spiritual comfort and solidarity, but also sustainability and accountability in any response. All this is done thanks to the generosity and commitment of people like you and me, who may not be able to be physically present to give a helping hand but can provide from our resources to help others who are in need. Please visit their website to learn about the wonderful work they do <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>

Finally, we should remember that we live in a zone that is highly prone to earthquakes. They strike suddenly, violently, and without warning. It is important that we are prepared. I know I need to do it myself. The idea may be overwhelming to you, but it may save your life. There are many ways in which we can prepare ourselves, our families, and our homes. Please visit the following websites to have an idea of things that we can do to do so and please spread the word with others.

<https://www.calacademy.org/explore-science/how-to-prepare-for-an-earthquake>

<https://www.ready.gov/earthquakes>

Prayer for Preparedness and Response—by the Rev. Lyndon Harris

O God, our times are in your hand. In the midst of uncertainty lead us by your never-failing grace as we seek to be agents of healing and hope. Walk with us through difficult times; watch over us in danger; and give to us a spirit of love and compassion for those who suffer and mourn. And finally remind us that you have promised never to leave us so that even in the valley of the shadow of death your love may be felt, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Norma Guerra



- How to Coordinate Your Retirement and Estate Plans -



We often think of retirement accounts as monolithic resources. It is easy to see why – we spend our working years socking away money for our future. Unfortunately, though, the rising cost of healthcare can quickly deplete even the largest of retirement funds. Because retirement accounts tend to be the largest assets in a person's estate, it is crucial that proper planning is done to handle one's retirement fund.

The first thing you need to do is ensure you have the assets you need to take care of yourself and your family. With the increased costs of healthcare, it is crucial you have what you need after you retire and can manage your medical expenses on a fixed income. While we would all hope for a quiet retirement, finances can be unexpectedly stressful. In addition to budgeting out a financial strategy to keep you comfortable during retirement, we can also work with your financial advisor to help you develop a strategy for distributing any leftover funds upon your death.



In addition, the rules surrounding the taxation of retirement accounts can be difficult to understand, further complicating a potentially stressful retirement experience. Upon retiring, you will have to take a required minimum distribution, which will be subject to income tax. Most people are used to having income tax withheld from their paychecks, but sometimes overlook that they will still have a similar tax liability for their retirement account.

It is also important that your strategy for passing on the account takes into consideration the tax consequences. As mentioned above, because these accounts are created with pre-tax contributions, the required minimum distributions made to the owner are subject to income tax. When these funds are distributed to a designated beneficiary after the owner's death, there are still income tax concerns regardless of who is named as the designated beneficiary. It's why working with a trusted financial advisor and attorney is so important to enjoying your golden years. With these experts on your side, you'll rest easy knowing you've taken care of your family in the present and future.

Ultimately, you will benefit most from ensuring your retirement plan and estate plan align. By working with your trusted financial advisor and us, you can ensure the goals you have for your retirement and for your estate do not contradict one another. For example, you may have designated one beneficiary for your account when you signed up for your 401k but may now wish to change who or how the beneficiary will receive your assets upon your death. Or, you may have originally anticipated the excess funds from your retirement account being used to care for an aging loved one, but due to the market, you may need to find additional sources to cover these anticipated expenses. Meeting with your financial advisor and us is crucial to making sure your family and loved ones are not stuck in financial hardship after you have passed.

When it comes to retirement, it can be difficult to know what you do not know. If you are concerned about the state of your retirement account, assets and estate plan, schedule a meeting with your financial advisor and us today. With so much on the line, it pays to do your homework, connect with professionals and ensure your final wishes are documented and respected.

This newsletter is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be construed as written advice about a Federal tax matter. Readers should consult with their own professional advisors to evaluate or pursue tax, accounting, financial, or legal planning strategies.

- Blood Drives -

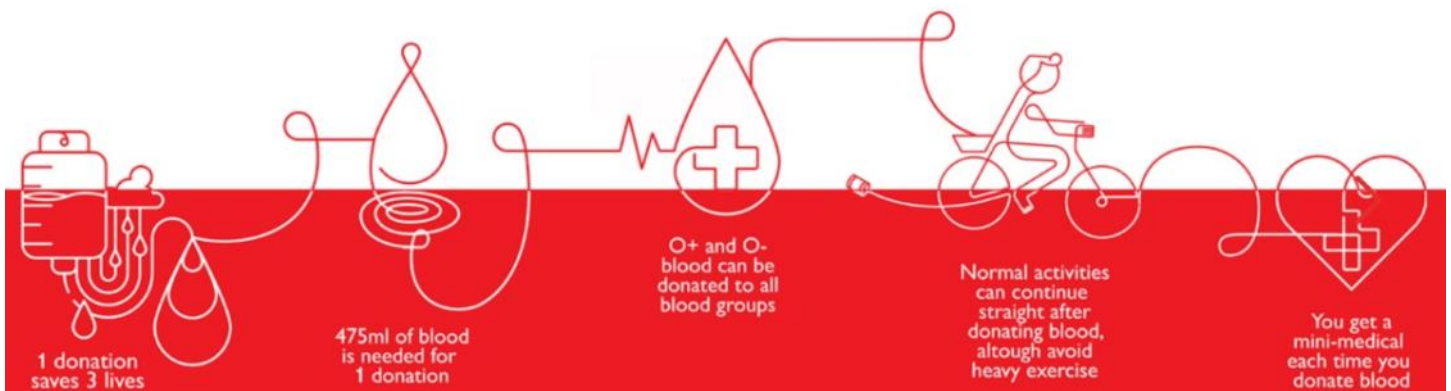


RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

July 12th + July 26th + August 9th
August 23rd

11:00am - 5:00pm

The American Red Cross will be hosting three Blood Drives at St. Clement's, in addition to our Annual Blood Drive! We are proud to support the Red Cross in their ministry, and hope you will support the cause as well.



Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages: accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. **Blood and platelets cannot be manufactured; they can only come from volunteer donors.** Approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U.S. **A single donation can save up to three lives.**

To sign up as a blood donor, or for more information, please contact the Church Office:

info@scbythesea.org

- UTO Ingathering Update -



UNITED THANK OFFERING SET TO AWARD \$1,535,740 AFTER THE 2018 INGATHERING

April 15, 2019

The United Thank Offering (UTO) Ingathering is set to award \$1,535,740 in 2019, thanks to increased giving by people from across the church in 2018. UTO funds are granted on an annual basis to support mission across The Episcopal Church and throughout the Anglican Communion.

The UTO 2018 Ingathering reflects an increase in giving of \$15,495 over the 2017 thank offerings. Fifty-three Episcopal dioceses increased their giving. For a complete breakdown in giving by Province and Diocese since 2000, please visit: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/ingathering/> (The link to this data is at the bottom of the page.)

“We are so very grateful for everyone who participates in UTO each year,” shared UTO staff officer, Heather Melton. “Not only because your thank offerings go on to fund innovative mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church through UTO grants, but also because we believe that gratitude is an important and needed expression of faith in the world today. If you think about the Ingathering as an expression of the good things God is doing in the midst of us, then at a dime a piece, that means Episcopalians experienced almost 11 million blessings in 2018.”

Since 1889, UTO has collected and granted \$138,629,911 in thank offerings to support innovative mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion through 5,257 grants. For the full list of grants awarded by UTO, please visit: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/granting/1883-2018-grant-list/> The 2019 grants, funded by the 2018 Ingathering, will be announced mid-June 2019.

UTO was founded to encourage Episcopalians to notice the good things happening in their daily lives and make small thank offerings in a UTO Blue Box or through the UTO Blue Box app. The following year, 100% of those thank offerings are awarded as grants. For more information on UTO, or how to participate, please visit www.episcopalchurch.org/uto. We will ingather our boxes in the first week of June, and again in November.



ST. CLEMENT'S BY-THE-SEA

VBS SUMMER CAMP

New Friends · Amazing Experiments · Creative Games
Super-fun Snacks · Surprising Adventures · Incredible Music

JUNE 24TH - 28TH

9:00AM - 12:00PM

Ages: Kindergarten - 5th grade
(campers must be 5 years old by Sept. 1st)

SPECIAL CELEBRATION SERVICE

JUNE 30TH AT 10:00AM

For more information, please call 949.492.3401

Early Bird Registration: \$60.00

After May 1st: \$70.00

THIS YEAR'S CAMP IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY A COLLABORATION
OF ST. CLEMENT'S EPISCOPAL AND CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH.

- Something for Everyone -



Lincoln's Last Trial:
The Murder Case That Propelled Him to the Presidency
 by Dan Abrams & David Fisher

Tuesday, June 4th
 5:00pm at Aegis Senior Living
 26922 Estrella
 Capistrano Beach, CA 92624



For more information, please contact: Mary Ann Morrison at (949) 361-0031



When: June 19th
 2:00pm–5:00pm

Where: Laundry Basket South
 2405 S. El Camino Real

Please contact Tina Inglish for more information:
ringlish@cox.net



Social Justice Book Club

Money and Faith
 by Michael Schut

Thursday, June 20th
 7:00pm in the St. Clement's Library

Questions? Please contact Jan Geneviro at outreach@scbythesea.org.



Sandwich Making for the Welcome Inn

June 16th at 9:00am

Join us to help make sandwiches and sack lunches for those in need!

- Something for Everyone -



Parish Administrator...

My name is Spring Huemme and I am very excited to get to know all of you as I step in as the new Parish Administrator here at St. Clement's.

I am a mother of two amazing young men, Tevin (27) and Trey (25) and the grandmother of Royce (8), she happens to be my favorite girl! I have many years of experience in administration and have spent the last five years traveling as a personal assistant. I am looking forward to putting some roots in the ground in this new season. I will be in the office about 20 hours a week and thank you all in advance for the help along the way.

FUN FACT: My granddaughter calls me "Jajja" which is the word for grandparent in Luganda, one of the major languages in Uganda.



JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

A NOTE FROM OUR MONDAY MORNING COUNTERS:

We would like to remind you to please write your pledge number on all your gifts for special events and services at St. Clements. Also, please indicate what you are paying for i.e. pledge, Good Friday, etc. By your doing so, saves us a huge amount of time, because we have to look up the pledge number for every loose check. We appreciate your cooperation.

Also: a reminder that you will not receive credit for payments for meals, according to the IRS Laws.



GLEAM-OC, the Orange County branch of the diocesan ministry with LGBTQ persons,
invites you to Orange County Pride on June 22!

The Episcopal Church will be present to share God's love and the good news
of a church where no one is asked to stop being themselves in order to participate.

EVENTS TO INCLUDE:

WORSHIP

Eucharist: to be held at the Episcopal Church of the Messiah at 10 a.m.

WALK

Parade: step off is at approximately 11:30. We'll leave from Messiah carrying our signs and banners, and return to Messiah to put all the stuff away.

WELCOME

The Festival: opens at noon, and the Episcopal Church will be staffing a booth, where we'll give away rainbow cross necklaces, postcards, pens, hugs, and information about the Episcopal churches in Orange County.

Come be a part of any and all of it! Pride is a lot of fun,
and you absolutely don't have to be LGBTQ to bring God's love to this community!
If you have a Pride t-shirt from prior years, please wear it.

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gleamoc/>

SEE YOU AT PRIDE!

Flamenco Fiesta!

**All proceeds to benefit
St. Clement's Outreach Projects**

AUGUST 11

1PM-5PM

at the home of Judy Johnson

Join us for an afternoon of BBQ, drinks, desserts, and a fabulous performance by well-known Los Angeles dancer Jessica Pacheco!

Only 5 tickets still available. Buy yours today!

\$50.00/person

Tickets available during Coffee Hour (dates TBA) or online at www.scbythesea.org

*For more information, please contact Judy Johnson:
949.422.8210 or jjohnson120@cox.net*



- Outreach News -



*Do your little bit of good
where you are; it's those
little bits of good put
together that overwhelm
the world.*

Desmond Tutu

There are so many people in our parish who quietly and daily go about doing their little bit of good. In their loving actions, they make the lives of their families, their friends, and their communities better, in ways that are often invisible but matter deeply.

This good is often done anonymously and without any desire for recognition. Respecting this, I won't single anyone out. But I would like to take a moment to reflect on and thank all of you who give of yourselves to manifest God's love in the world through the outreach activities that we as a parish have prioritized.



Thank you for keeping Laundry Love going, and helping families feel valued and known in the relationships you build with them.

Thank you for shopping and organizing and making sandwiches to feed our hungry neighbors, and for demonstrating a connection and commitment to them in challenging times.

Thank you for supporting our military families, for offering your time and your presence to care for those who may feel very far from home and very alone.

Thank you for gathering to read books that challenge our usual ways of thinking, that open our hearts and minds to the lives and experiences of others, and that motivate us to find new ways to "do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

Thank you for supporting St. Clement's outreach work with your time, talent, treasure, and deep generosity.

Are there other little bits of good that we can do where we are, together?

If you have suggestions for new activities or new approaches for St. Clement's outreach activities, or ideas for ways that we can work to overwhelm the world with love, please contact the Outreach Committee at outreach@scbythesea.org or me directly at janice.genevro@gmail.com.

Jan Genevro
Vestry Member for Outreach



Dear Friends,

Father's Day is coming up on Sunday, June 16th and some of you may be shopping for the perfect gift to honor your dear father on his special day.

When you purchase your Father's Day gifts at Smile.Amazon.com.

Amazon Smile donates to St. Clement's. This is a wonderful opportunity to honor your father, the church, and her mission.

For assistance, please contact: Spring info@scbythesea.org

MARY ERICKSON COMMUNITY HOUSING

SUNSET AT SALT CREEK CARIBBEAN PARTY!

AUGUST 9TH | 5:30PM - 9:00PM
SALT CREEK BEACH, DANA POINT, CA

Fabulous Food | Live Music | Dancing on the Sand
Live Auction & Drawing | Hosted Bar | Networking

Tickets: \$100/person

To purchase your tickets, or for more information,
please contact Mary Erickson Community Housing:

949.369.5419

- June Birthdays -



3-Melanie Grigg	18-Judy Johnson
5-Peter Knapp	20-Judy McDonald
9-Diana Olmedo	21-Wendy Berube
12-Christina Crerar	22-Bishop Diane Bruce
14-Mike Badstubner	22-Jo Mothershead
14-Tom Seminoff	24-Kent Adamson
16-Robert Hagstrom	24-Gerald McDonald
17-Anna Brownell	27-Pat Kensler
17-Amanda Patterson	

- June Anniversaries -



7-Tom & Christi Seminoff
14-Mel & Jo Mothershead
17-Robert & Susan Hagstrom
19-Will & Tatia Wallett
23-Fred Robinson & Claire Morrison
27-Bob & Bertie Lloyd
27-Mark & Sherilee Pocino

Bible Studies



Every Wednesday
in the Library

11:00am (English)

6:00pm (Spanish)

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer Group

Every Monday at 6:00pm in the Library

For more information,
please contact Matt Duncan:
morphix1@cox.net

St. Clement's by-the-Sea EPISCOPAL CHURCH

San Clemente's First Church

Welcoming all since 1929



SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00am Holy Communion Rite I

10:00am Holy Communion Rite II with Choir, Nursery, Sunday School

12:00pm La Misa en Español

202 Avenida Aragon
San Clemente, CA 92672

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—9:00am-1:00pm

Tuesday-Friday—8:00am-1:00pm

Phone: 949.492.3401

E-mail: info@scbythesea.org

Website: www.scbythesea.org

The Rev. Patrick Crerar, Rector