

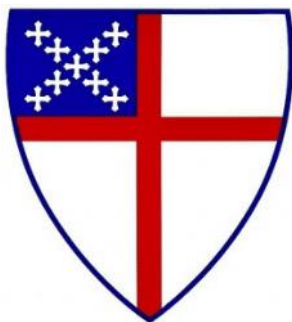


THE ANCHOR

SEPTEMBER 2020

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



Small...

In the times of pandemic, we tend to notice the small things. The little things in our lives take on new meaning and substance. I was reading some of the writings of the good saint, Julian of Norwich (c. 1342-1417). You probably know that she was an anchoress in England, who had a dwelling attached to the church of St. Julian in Norwich. What you may not know about her is that she lived through three waves of the plague during her lifetime. She once got sick (not from plague) and was quite near death, and she had the experience of having fifteen visions of Christ. In one such vision, Jesus opens her hand and Julian sees something akin to a hazelnut and asks, "what is it, Lord." Jesus replies, "it is all of creation."



Julian is quite shocked by this revelation and ponders, "how can it survive? It is so small." To which our Lord says, "it survives because God loves it!"¹ What a deeply comforting statement. At least it is to me. Sometimes I wonder about our little parish, and I'm tempting to ask "Lord, how can it survive?" We face so many obstacles: Our technical limitations, our limited volunteer base, our financial limits, an almost infinite variety of better equipped, more resourced offerings, a society that seemingly has grown bored with adoration. Yet, I am assured by Julian's vision, "it survives because God loves it!" And ultimately, this is the only real reason we survive. We survive because God loves us.

In February 1990, the Voyager 1 spacecraft was departing our solar system, heading toward parts unknown, deep space. The planetary scientist, Carl Sagan, convinced a reluctant NASA to reorient Voyager to take some final snapshots of our little corner of the cosmos and send them back. NASA argued that there was no scientific value to doing so, but Sagan prevailed. One of those images is particularly celebrated, now on its thirtieth year. You've probably seen the photo. In it, the earth is just a speck. In fact, our planet was confused for a dust particle at first. But there it is, that "Pale Blue Dot," our planet. In this great sea of the cosmos, the galaxies in their courses, there is our "fragile earth, our island home" as the *Book of Common Prayer* calls her.

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To contemplate our smallness, seems to have part of Sagan's motivation. "This was precisely why Sagan and other members of the Voyager team felt the images were needed — they wanted humanity to see Earth's vulnerability and that our home world is just a tiny, fragile speck in the cosmic ocean."² Indeed, she is so small, so seemingly insignificant, how does she survive? She survives because God loves her. And on that dot, as Sagan observed when the photograph was revealed to the public, lives everyone you've ever cared about.

"Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every 'superstar,' every 'supreme leader,' every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there—on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam."³

It is good to contemplate our smallness. This is not to suggest insignificance, rather the exact opposite. Though we are so very small we are the most precious thing in God's eyes. You can relate to that, can't you? Consider that any one of us is but one of the almost eight billion people now living on this speck, and any one person can seem insignificant. But if that person is your mother, or your daughter, or your most beloved friend, or your spouse. They are still but one in the great sea of humanity, those now living, those who have come before and those who will come in time, but they are nonetheless of inestimable, infinite worth, aren't they, unique and irreplaceable. Let's contemplate that! You love them so tenderly. And God loves you even more completely than that. And this is how we continue to exist.

To return to Julian, through her visions she comes to more fully comprehend God's enormous love for us. This is especially so through her experience of Christ's Passion, the truly greatest demonstration of God's unwavering love for his creation. She remarks that God wraps us in such tender care, it is like a blanket that envelopes us. Julian desired three things in her life, a sense of contrition (for that which has been done amiss), compassion (for others in her midst) and a deep longing for God (for ever). She is granted all three. She lives these out in humility. To comprehend our own smallness before God is truly a gift.

Yet, we don't much like to focus upon our smallness. We would prefer to gaze upon our greatness. To quote Shakespeare, when we think on ourselves, we are more likely to say: "What a piece of work is a man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculty! In form and moving how express and admirable! In action, how like an angel in apprehension, how like a god!" And we forget the latter part of that quote, wherein Hamlet adds, "and yet to me, what is this quintessence of dust?" The biblical witness would lead us more to Hamlet's and Julian's comprehension, and ultimately to humility before the great mystery of God's love for us, and an apprehension of our own tininess before God. That is a holy state of being and draws us closer to Christ and to others.

The opposite of such emotions is of course the great sin of human pride, which has the reverse affect. As the writer of the wisdom book, Ecclesiasticus, puts it: “how can dust...be proud?...The beginning of human pride is to forsake the Lord; the heart has withdrawn from its Maker” (10:9, 12). To be mindful then of our own smallness or own unlikeliness, is then a blessing. And it makes us a blessing to others. As that same author says, “Arrogance is hateful to the Lord and to mortals” (10:7). It separates us from God and from one another. But has anyone ever been offended by someone who is truly humble? Or do they take offense at the compassionate? The contrite and those who long to truly know God?

When we consider the vastness of the cosmos, the very fact that any one of us even exists or that anyone, anywhere, ever existed is perhaps one of the greater affirmations of God’s love of us. We exist because God love us. We have existed for this reason. We do exist for this reason. And we will continue to exist for ever for this reason, and this reason alone.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Patrick

1 See, Showings of Julian of Norwich, by Mirabai Starr (Charlottesville: Hampton Roads, 2013).

2 <https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/resources/536/voyager-1s-pale-blue-dot/>

3 <https://www.planetary.org/worlds/pale-blue-dot>



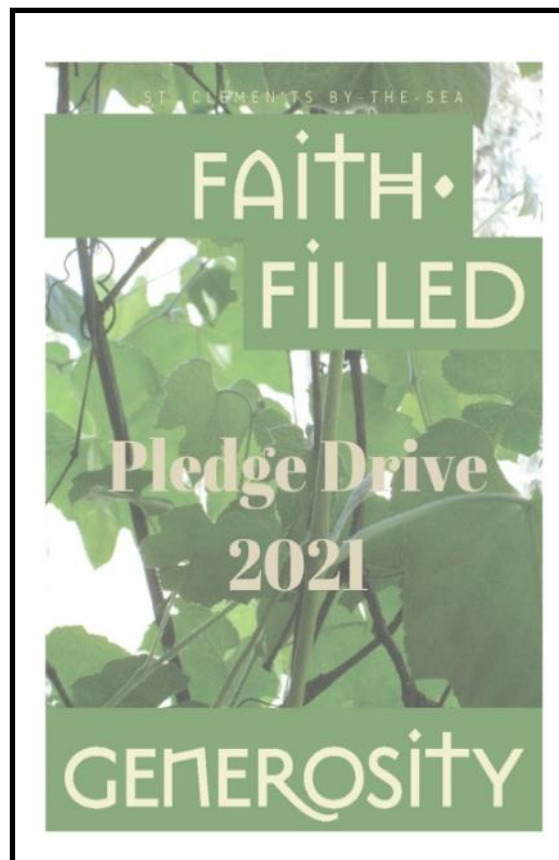
Vestry Meetings
Tuesday, September 15th
7:00 pm
Currently meeting via Zoom.

2021 Pledge Drive



“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”
- *Peter 4:10*

The theme for this year’s stewardship campaign “Faith-filled Generosity” focuses on service. This year has reminded us in so many ways of the strength and closeness of our community. Even in the months in which we were physically distant and unable to gather in person, the Spirit kept us together, connecting us. As we experienced those weeks of not being able to gather in person, the usual focus on weekly worship was spread throughout the week as we found ways to gather virtually, taking more time to pray for each other’s needs and serving our community. Many in the media or in our society kept referring to our churches as “closed,” but we were never closed. We continued following the Gospel call to live in love with our neighbors, finding ever new ways to seek and serve Christ in all people.



As we look to the year to come, we are more committed than ever to the ministry and love we share with our community and our neighbors. The Gospels are rich with examples of how our faith kindles our love for each other and our Christian responsibility to share our love with the world. As we move through the weeks of this year’s stewardship campaign, we will be hearing messages of Faith-Filled Generosity. At this time, though, I invite you to pray and learn, taking these weeks to consider how your response to God’s call has been shaped by St. Clement’s and the friends who gather with you here.

Thank you for being a part of St. Clement’s by-the-Sea.

Jon Ulz

Stewardship Chair

Memorial Garden



The two new columbaria in the Memorial Garden were consecrated by Father Patrick in August and are now ready to receive ashes. To make this space more beautiful for interment services, and for reflective moments, the landscaping was completely refreshed. The design concept presented by the parish volunteers and approved by the vestry was to use Biblical and Mediterranean plants, and for the design to be simple and subdued, with some subtle screening of the garden.

The planting includes dwarf olives shrubs that are inside the planted bed on the church wall, framing the two columbaria. A mandarin orange tree was planted in a pot near the door to the sanctuary to help frame the space. Twin cypresses trees were planted in pots just inside the gates, to reinforce the sense of entering sacred space. A Sago palm and a rose, both Biblical plants, were donated years ago by parishioners in honor of beloved ones and they remain in the planting bed. The fountain was also replanted, and will have seasonal color plants added during the year.

The lawn is now being renovated, and a second phase of enhancements is anticipated.



Outdoor Worship



The idea of building a pergola to frame worship and social activities on the courtyard was conceived more than three years ago, and now in God's time it was ready for use just as we needed it for outdoor worship. How awesome is our God!

Church volunteers installed two layers of shade cloth atop the pergola, and other volunteers completely re-landscaped the plantings between the courtyard and the sidewalk adjacent to the street. Olive shrubs, a biblical plant, will provide a light screen between the street and the courtyard; they will grow to about 8 feet in height. Two large clay pots were placed inside the low wall framing the planting bed and beautiful espaliered olives are growing there. These planting provides a wonderful sense of peace and presence in an enclosed worship space while still being open and airy.



If you are unable to attend outdoor worship you can view it on the St Clement's Youtube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5kQlrSCMkmdDOhQhGeKaUA>

**5:00pm Saturday Evening
"Casual Service"**
**Bring your own chair, mask
and BCP**





**9:00 am Sunday Morning
(English)
Traditional / Contemporary**
**With music, Live-streamed,
chairs provided**



**11:00 am Domingos -
La Misa en Español**
**Con musica, sillas provistas,
la transmisión en vivo**





As you approach the church look up high and you will see a new American flag waving above the Episcopal Church flag, A patriotic parishioner noticed that our American flag needed replacing and soon we had a new flag flying high. You may not know that with our salt air and constant sun, we go through *many* flags a year. If you'd like to help us keep our flags always in good order, please give to our Flag Fund. Many thanks to Char Bailey Crowe who has sponsored our flags for Sept & Oct. We need sponsors for future months. You will be recognize here for your gift..





First FAM food distribution at St. Clement's Serves 98 Local Families

Latino Health Resources and COVID-19 Educational Material Also Distributed

Family Assistance Ministries (FAM), a San Clemente-based non-profit which has provided community services since 1999, recently asked St. Clement's to provide space and volunteers for weekly food distribution.

FAM was looking for an outdoor location west of the 5 and located in an area convenient to many of their potential clients; the FAM headquarters is located in a commercial zone near the San Clemente City Hall. The Vestry quickly agreed, and Vestry members Margarita Farias (Latino Ministries) and Michael Gambone (IT) agreed to head up the operation.

Less than two weeks after FAM's request to St. Clement's, on Friday August 28, more than 40 cars (representing 98 families) passed through the St. Clement's parking lot. FAM representative Samantha Sovern, who did an exceptional job of organizing the distribution, said that the donated items will feed about 250 people.

FAM's new contact-free food transfer system worked flawlessly. Prior to the 2 p.m. start time about 20 masked and gloved volunteers packed boxes of milk, eggs, meat, fruits and vegetables, and bakery items. Then, as the cars passed through the parking lot one at a time, car trunks were opened and boxes were placed in them while the clients remained in their cars.

FAM provided all of the donated items and the packing materials; St. Clement's provided the tables and helped recruit the volunteers.

Margarita Farias, who is employed by Latino Health Access, welcomed each vehicle as people entered the queue, and passed out bi-lingual information packages on COVID-19 health services and recommendations and other public resources.

There is a continuing need for volunteers for this ministry. The distribution is 2 to 4 p.m., with setup prior to the start and clean-up afterwards. Those interested in volunteering are asked to send an email to info@scbythesea.org or contact the church office.



Our next food distribution will be on Friday, September 11th.





Join Fr. Patrick on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for a time to pray together on Zoom at 4pm. Open to all, and without obligation (that you commit to be present with any regularity). We will have a reading and other prayers, mostly based on the daily office, which Fr. Patrick will share on the screen. So, you need not prepare or bring anything, but your intentions for God.

If you'd like to join, here is the link. It should work every week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 4pm, without need for a new link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81488527537?pwd=NUhyd1hVNXRodWNGYVFEBDZLTUthUT09>



A reminder that we'll recommence our weekly Bible Study on Wednesdays at 11am. We'll begin with Philippians. We will meet by Zoom. The following link should work every week, without the need for a new link each time.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765551451?pwd=UXdNYUxtT29FNU1YR0lkNFdPQmxqdz09>

Meeting ID: 847 6555 1451
Passcode: 823922



Our former (and then mysteriously missing) Episcopal Church sign on El Camino Real directing passersby to St Clement's has been replaced with this new sign. Thanks to Spring, our Parish Administrator, who hung the new sign. A neighbor has graciously offered to paint our sign post and upper scroll bracket.

- September Birthdays -

9/2	Rich Suda
9/4	Mike Marcu
9/8	Sherilee Pocino
9/9	Mark Williams
9/12	Fatima Delgado
9/14	Diane Beneker
9/18	Forrest Wilson
9/20	Bart Ashbaugh
9/23	Lina Hernandez Garcia
9/23	Michael Morris
9/23	Joyce Stewart
9/24	Terry Harbison-Moore
9/27	Fred Robinson
9/28	Max Wallett



- September Anniversaries -



9/7	Claus & Diane Beneker
9/8	Duggan & Deborah Neville
9/12	Mike & Rebecca Marcu
9/13	Mark & Karen Williams
9/14	Fred & Joyce Stewart
9/20	Julia & Cathy Darden-Lentz
9/23	Frank & Katrina Soto

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

San Clemente's First Church

Welcoming all since 1929



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

OUTSIDE UNDER THE PERGOLA

5:00 pm Holy Communion, Rite II

9:00 am Holy Communion Rite II

11:00 am La Misa en Español

202 Avenida Aragon
San Clemente, CA 92672

OFFICE HOURS

Vary during these times.

Phone: 949.492.3401

E-mail: info@scbythesea.org

Website: www.scbythesea.org

The Rev. Patrick Crerar, Rector