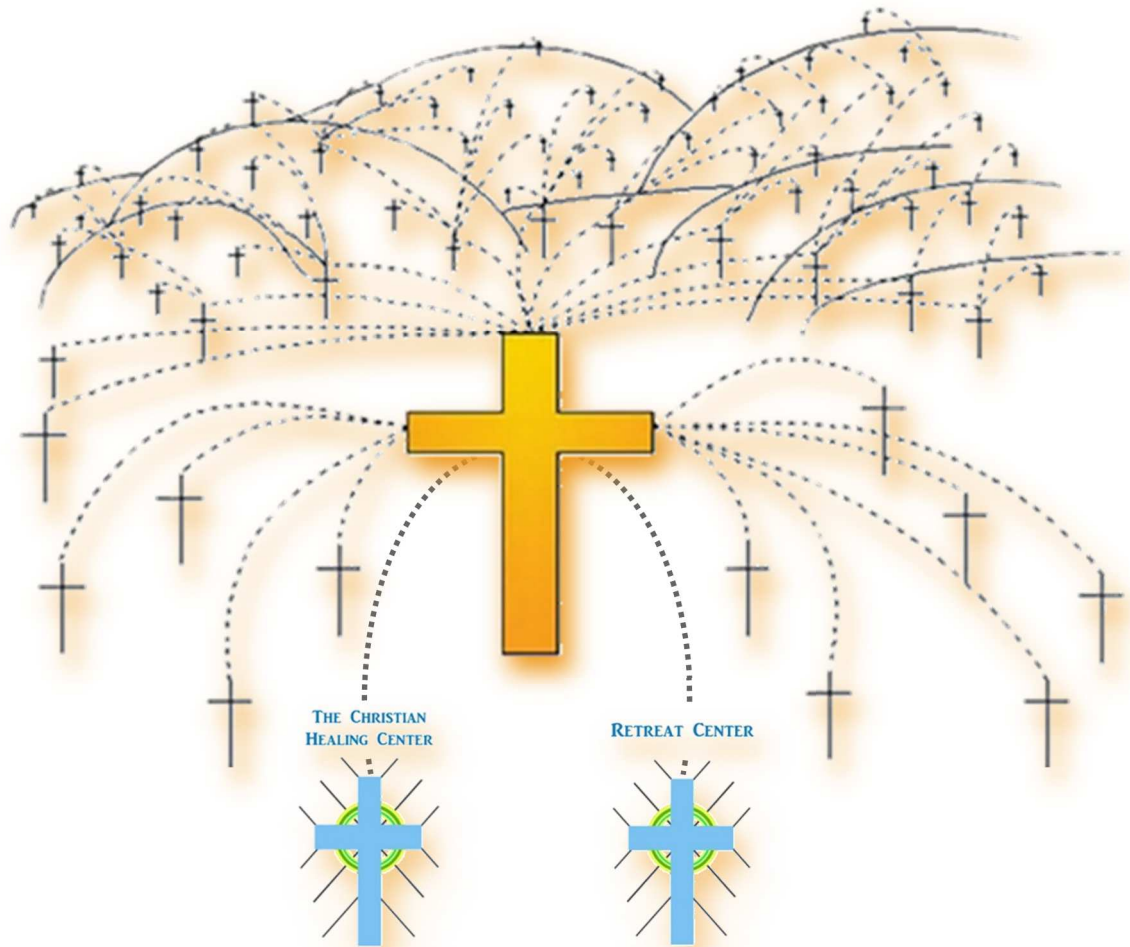


WE ARE ...



BRANCHES OF THE CROSS

CHRISTIAN HEALING CENTER • BRANCHES RETREAT CENTER

*An Anglican Congregation,
Worshiping, Growing and Serving
In North San Diego County, California*

BRANCHESVISTA.ORG

BRANCHES' VISION...

A vibrant, loving family of spirit-filled believers who abide in Christ, loving and serving God and neighbor.

- *We are a worshiping community that loves one another as a family and are on a mission to share that love with a growing congregation.*
- *We love God; are blessed by His presence in and among us; and look forward to going deeper in our relationship with Him.*
- *We are blessed with unique resources to help people in need and look forward to helping many more.*
- *Many individuals and groups have been blessed by holding retreats and meetings on our beautiful campus; sharing we wish to continue far into the future.*

BRANCHES' MISSION...

Preaching the gospel, bearing witness, making disciples, and healing

- *We are dedicated to spreading the good news of the Gospel, proclaiming Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life, equipping the saints for ministry, and loving our neighbors.*
- *We call people to discipleship and give witness to the blessings we have found in it.*
- *We worship in person and online, broadening our outreach, prayer ministry, and our future plans.*
- *We are richly blessed to minister healing to people, and we share that blessing by training additional prayer ministers so that many more might be healed.*

BRANCHES' CORE VALUES...

We value...

- *Loving God that overflows in obedience, thanksgiving and worship;*
- *Loving neighbors: forgiving, respecting, serving, and edifying; reaching out to, and welcoming in Christian fellowship, those who are hungry, those who are hurting, those who have given up on God and the church;*
- *Intimacy with God: as candid as Moses, conversing with God in prayer (listening as well as speaking), humbly and attentively learning from God like Paul;*
- *A Holy Life: purity, integrity, self-denial, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, transparency, humility, and the four cardinal virtues (prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance);*
- *Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control;*
- *Christ within: Christ enthroned as Lord in our hearts and souls, allowing Him to live in and through us, expressing that to others and becoming Christ among us; and...*
- *Life in the Spirit: guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to manifest Himself in our ministry and in our daily lives.*

WHO “BRANCHES” IS & WHAT WE BELIEVE...

Branches of the Cross is an Anglican congregation of Scripture, Spirit & Sacrament.

We are a member congregation of the Anglican Church in North America and the Diocese of Western Anglicans.



The Branches Chapel

- *We believe the Holy Scriptures to be the inspired word of God, authoritative in all faith and practice.*
- *We believe that the Holy Spirit is given to all who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord; transforms us into the image of Christ; develops the fruit of the Spirit within us - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control; and that the Holy Spirit dwells in us as the Church in its services, prayers, and healing ministry. We are open to all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit - words of wisdom and knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophesy, discernment of spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues. God works through leaders and laity who have hearts for Jesus and the Holy Spirit.*
- *We believe that the Sacraments are given to us to celebrate the mystery of faith, helping us worship and achieve our mission of reaching the world for Christ.*

3 “BRANCHES” OF MINISTRY: AN OVERVIEW

- *Branches of the Cross: A Worshiping, Discipling, Ministering Community...*
Branches of the Cross is a fully-functioning congregation that offers multiple inspiring Eucharistic services every week; outreach, education, and discipling programs – in person and online - with relevant and transformational preaching from Scripture; prayer ministry and pastoral care for members; and outreach to our community.
- *The Christian Healing Center ...*
The Christian Healing Center’s program of intercessory prayer, personal prayer, and 3-Day Intensive Prayer Retreats provides spiritual and practical relief for those whose lives have been wounded spiritually, emotionally and/or physically.
- *The Branches Retreat Center*
Our congregation is blessed with a beautiful, peaceful, intimate setting, and we offer the use of our facilities to Christian groups and individuals for retreats, meetings, training, and other events and activities lasting a single day or several days.

1 BRANCHES OF THE CROSS, A CONGREGATION...



Chapel Altar & Cross

We are distinctly Anglican and intentionally missional.

Presently, our Sunday Eucharistic Worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. in our 55-seat Chapel.

Since the start of the COVID19 pandemic, we are embracing online outreach with ZOOM and Facebook, transmitting our service globally.

Pre-pandemic, our congregation's Sunday in-person attendance averaged 30 persons.

One of our goals is to grow, offering multiple weekend services, and another is to resume the long-standing joy of enjoying a meal and fellowship together following Sunday Eucharist.

Innovating during COVID19, we initiated an outdoor service on the patio of Disciple House, Wednesday Mornings at 10:30 a.m. The community is invited, and the service provides the community an opportunity to visibly see, initially connect with and experience worship.

As things get back to normal, we also look forward to resuming our Eucharistic Healing Services every Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon; our Wednesday Bible Studies; and special events during the Christian Calendar, especially during the seasons of Advent, Christmastide, Epiphany, Lent, Passion/Easter, and Pentecost.

BRANCHES' LEADERSHIP TEAM...

We are collaborative, collegial and staffed as are many Anglican congregations, a ministering blend of called and committed leaders and laity.

- Rector/Senior Pastor (paid compensation and possible on-site housing).
- Deacon (when available). We participate in our Diocesan diaconal training program.
- Worship Leader (part-time, paid).
- Senior/Rector's Warden (chosen by the Rector).
- Junior/People's Warden (selected by the Vestry).
- Vestry, each member is elected by the congregation for a rotating, 3-year term.
- Lay Staff/Volunteers, including a Secretary, Altar Guild, Hospitality, Property Maintenance, and Director of the Christian Healing Center.
- We are seeking a volunteer to head our Retreat Center operation and a team of volunteers to provide assistance.

THE PEOPLE WHO ARE BRANCHES...

The people who are Branches are dedicated disciples of Jesus Christ.

We fully subscribe to our Diocese's mandate to "Make disciples that make disciples, train missional leaders, and multiply missional communities," and our Deanery's Purpose, "Reaching San Diego and the surrounding area with the transforming love of Jesus Christ!"

We are an established congregation with almost 10 years of ministry experience. Married couples make up about a quarter of the congregation. Some of us, but not all, are retired. The majority of us are of retirement age, and our parishioners have family members scattered throughout the country, some of whom now attend our Sunday services online.

We have a few members who have been attending for years, but most of us have joined more recently. We are small, enthusiastic and dedicated to worship, discipleship, healing, and hospitality. We sincerely believe our Statement of Faith, and we continue to seek and listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We are looking forward to a new priest/pastor/shepherd and friend to with whom to share vision, doing the work God has blessed/is enabling/will empower us to do. We are excited, expecting to see who God calls and what God has planned for us in our future.

BRANCHES' HISTORY...

Branches of the Cross Anglican Church, a unique history and responsibility.

The Branches congregation was founded on property that belonged to the Christian Healing Center Inc. (CHC). The Center had a developed ministry, which included pastoral counseling, spiritual direction, intercessory prayer, and a 3-day healing retreat that we continue today.

Christian Healing Center leaders wanted an Anglican presbyter/priest to conduct church services onsite and serve as spiritual leader of 3-day retreats. In response to this request, Grace Anglican Church in Oceanside, now Carlsbad, offered a staff member who became responsible for planting the new congregation on the Christian Healing Center site in 2011.

In 2012 when Branches of the Cross Anglican Church, Inc. was formally incorporated, the Christian Healing Center dissolved as a corporation and conveyed the property to Branches of the Cross on the understanding that the Christian Healing Center name and ministry would continue in perpetuity as a multi-denominational ministry of Branches of the Cross.

Branches of the Cross is therefore a non-profit corporation whose board owns the property and is responsible for all three "branches"/aspects of ministry: Branches of the Cross congregation, the Christian Healing Center, and the Branches Retreat Center.



Disciple House Living Room

2 BRANCHES' RETREAT CENTER...

The Branches of the Cross Retreat Center is an “oasis in the desert,” an ideal campus for individual getaways or small group gatherings.

Visitors often tell us they feel the peace and presence of the Holy Spirit the minute they arrive on our campus. And that's only the beginning!

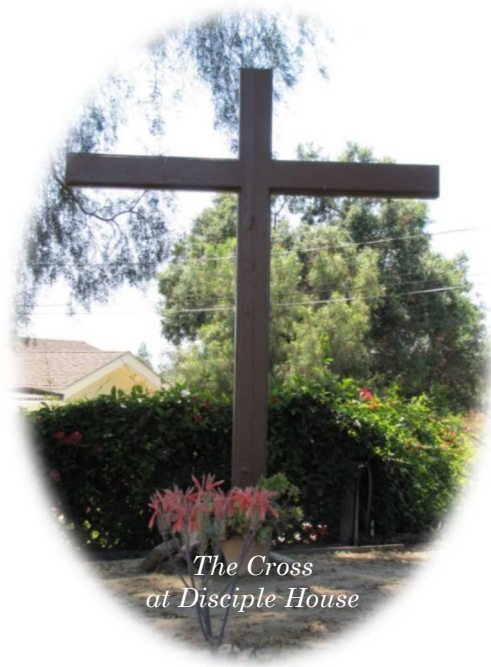
Off the beaten path in the beautiful rolling hills of Vista, California, we are conveniently located in a rural neighborhood without the distractions of a large city. Yet, we are within a 15-minute drive to shopping, dining, theaters and other amenities that might be desired. We are also accessible by major freeways and close to international and regional airports.

Branches is the perfect place for a mini-conference, staff get-away, small to medium-sized team/group planning experience, or a personal or family retreat. We can provide single day or overnight stays and accommodate multiple day events.

Our Retreat Center has fully-functional facilities for meeting, sleeping, dining, prayer and worship. Shekinah House and Disciple House, our two main buildings, have multiple meeting spaces with large, flat-screen TVs and wi-fi for up to 20 people in each space; two fully-equipped and functional kitchens; and retreat-style sleeping facilities. The Chapel is available for prayer, meditation and meetings. Campus grounds include patios and gardens with fountains that are perfect for outdoor meetings and/or prayer and solitude.

For the future, we have a desire to expand the ministry of The Branches Retreat Center!

- It is our goal to increase this use of our facilities through promotion and a dedicated management team.*
- We will continue to host Diocesan retreats, deacon trainings, presbyter retreats, meetings and retreats of local churches and individual personal retreats.*
- We want to grow, hosting 2 major events and 10 personal or family retreats/month.*
- We also want to entrepreneurially develop and facilitate innovative ministries in line with our expanding vision and mission.*



*The Cross
at Disciple House*

3 CHRISTIAN HEALING CENTER AT BRANCHES...

The Christian Healing Center's ministry is provided to all Christians regardless of denomination and to our community who needs Jesus' touch.

The Branches' Christian Healing Center ministry is based on Christian healing principles and practices found in the Holy Scriptures. Its teachings and preaching are not derived from a specific denomination.

Our specifically-trained, Spirit-filled, prayer ministers worship in churches of various Christian denominations and are responsible for a ministry that presently includes:

- *Intercessory Prayer,*
- *Personal Prayer,*
- *3-Day Intensive Healing,*
- *Saturday Ministry Retreats and...*
- *Training for Healing Ministry.*

To understand the scope of this unique ministry, we provide the following...

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Intercessory prayer is a major focus of our ministry. Our Spirit-filled intercessory prayer ministers are trained to pray over requests that come into the ministry for a week or two, depending on the nature of the request. Each prayer request is held in strictest confidence and none are ever seen by anyone other than our intercessors.

PERSONAL PRAYER

Presently, our prayer ministers pray and interact with people on the telephone or over the internet during Personal Prayer Appointments. When safety and county health regulation permits, we will again offer in-person appointments onsite at the Branches of the Cross campus.



All personal prayer requests are confidential. Our prayer ministers will not reveal or discuss anything said during consultative sessions with others. However, praise reports and testimonies may preserved and anonymously posted with permission on our website.

3-DAY INTENSIVE HEALING MINISTRY

Some problems and wounds people experience are too deep, too pervasive, too well-hidden, or too numerous to be dealt with through intercessory prayer or personal prayer, and 3-Day Intensive Healing opportunity is offered. The healing power of the Holy Spirit has proven remarkably successful during 3-Day Intensive retreats, setting people free from spiritual and emotional issues, physical ailments and relational, employment, and financial problems.

Based on Francis and Judith MacNutt's Christian Healing Ministries. each day presents an inspirational and informational talk followed by an hour and a half of prayer ministry in both the morning and the afternoon. Wednesday afternoon concludes with a Eucharistic worship service followed by prophetic blessing and sharing. "3-Days" are offered once a month, and we look forward to expanding this schedule as additional prayer ministers are recruited and trained.

SATURDAY MINISTRY RETREATS

To serve working people who find it difficult to take three days off to attend a 3-Day Retreat, and to provide follow-up for people who have attended a 3-Day Retreat, we are planning to offer 1-Day Healing Retreats when safety and public health regulations permit. We envision a format similar to the 3-Day. Some Saturdays will duplicate a day of the 3-Day, while others will feature a different theme, such as going deeper in your relationship with Christ.

TRAINING FOR THE HEALING MINISTRY

The Christian Healing Center periodically presents training programs to prepare people to serve in the healing ministry, either with us or at their own churches. We have used The School of Healing Prayer from Christian Healing Ministries and the Order of St. Luke's training program. We have also co-sponsored weekend conferences with other area churches, bringing in well-known speakers from around the United States and other countries. We would like to increase this ministry to the point of holding some training event every month.



Reflection Garden

GOD'S MIRACULOUS PROVISION FOR BRANCHES...



Oranges and bougainvillea

Years before Branches of the Cross was founded, God assembled what is literally a million dollar property, a property we could never dream of buying, and planted our church.

God then provided a faithful, uniquely-gifted Rector who was instrumental in getting Branches “up and running,” possessing the special skills necessary to develop and expand the ministry of the Christian Healing Center, plant the Branches congregation and manage this God-given Retreat Center.

Before the COVID19 pandemic shut down our worship services and retreats, God prepared the ZOOM service and sent us both a deacon to minister among us and a seminarian who needed a place to stay while the seminary was closed. Together, they possessed the wisdom and skill to initiate our Sunday broadcast and help us acquire the proper equipment to set up services on Zoom and Facebook.

Then, in a time of scarcity for many, God provided finances. And six months after the shutdown, we have more financial provision in the bank than we had before the pandemic.

We believe that God is providing again by raising up people who have given generously of their time, and who are appropriately gifted to handle the work we want desperately to do.

And now, we believe that God has prepared, is calling and will provide out of His abundant resources, the next leader with whom we will faithfully work to cause God's vision to be fulfilled at Branches.

To the reader/s...

It is likely understandable that we ought to be concerned as to whether a church as small as ours can survive, much greater, THRIVE!

But with a history like the foregoing, we continue working in faith to increase congregational membership, retreat attendance and healing ministry, praying in confidence that God will continue to provide.

Thanks and praise be to God.



Aerial View, Branches of the Cross Campus and surroundings.

BRANCHES' PROPERTY...

Our 1.85-acre campus is three residential properties with three houses and a 55-seat Chapel. We also have gardens, fruit trees, several patios and a tennis/basketball court.

The first house is "Church House." It has three bedrooms, an office (or small fourth bedroom), a reading nook (or open office), two bathrooms, a dining room, a living room, a kitchen, a two-car garage, and lovely patio area.

The second house, called "Shekinah House," is our guest lodge. It has five bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, a living room, and meeting/prayer room.

The third house, "Disciple House," is primarily a meetings venue. On the first floor, there are four bedrooms/prayer rooms, two bathrooms, a small office, a kitchen, a living room, and a large dining/meeting room. Downstairs there are two offices and a large meeting room.

Branches owns the entire property outright, and all parts are totally debt-free.



BRANCHES' FACTOIDS...

Branches of the Cross' Campus is located in a pastoral, residential neighborhood of single family homes on half-acre lots and citrus groves.

Residents range from retirement age to young families with children. The lifestyle is casual and relaxed. The area is rural without being remote.

90% of days are Southern California sunny! (Yes! You read that statistic correctly!)

Vista, city with “A View” in San Diego County.

With a population of 101,200, Vista is a medium-sized city in the northern part of the county, 40 miles north of downtown San Diego and 90 miles south of LA.

Downtown Vista is being gentrified, transformed from a 50's & 60's small town to a regional destination, enhanced with theaters, cafes, restaurants, local craft breweries, shops, and apartments - some of which are more affordable housing. The median income in Vista is about \$60,000.00/household.

Vista Business Park is home to over 800 companies, and there are two large shopping malls in very close proximity



Education

Vista has over 30 K-12 schools. There are 12 private schools serving over 2,500 students, including Tri-City Christian School, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, and Calvary Christian School.

San Diego County, is home to 15 public and private colleges and universities. Palomar and Mira Costa Junior/Community Colleges, Cal State University San Marcos and BIOLA University's satellite campus are either in or less than 15 minutes from our location in Vista.

Geography and climate

Vista city clings to the sides of hills, nestles in a few valleys and claims a total area of 18.7 square miles. Most businesses are located in the flatter areas, and residences climb the hills.

Located just seven miles inland from the Pacific Ocean, Vista has a Mediterranean climate, which is considered one of the top 3% of environments in which to live. The weather is pleasant and temperatures are moderate. Frost is quite rare in winter, and snowfall is almost unknown. Most of the annual rainfall of 13.24 inches falls between November and April.



BRANCHES' SUMMARY & GOALS...

At Branches...

We love God and are blessed by His presence in and among us.

Goal: We desire to go deeper in relationship with Him, discipling others to do the same.

We love - and even like - one another!

Goal: Our family is small, and we want to share missional love in a growing congregation of two to three to ? times our size in the next five years.

We love Anglican worship!

Goal: We look forward to growing in our understanding and appreciation of it, making it a missional magnet to our neighborhood and larger community.

We had not used technology in our worship services or other ministries, but when the pandemic shut us down, God surprised us with technology that has broadened our outreach, our prayer ministry, and our future plans.

Goal: We want to use technology to multiply missional, worshipping communities!

We have been richly blessed to minister healing to many people.

Goal: We want to share that blessing by expanding the healing ministry broadly and by training additional leaders in ministries of prayer and healing so that many more might be healed.

We have been blessed with resources to help people in need.

Goal: We look forward to helping many more.

Many individuals and groups have been blessed by holding retreats and meetings on our beautiful campus.

Goal: We have outlined details for weekly and monthly use in hope of sharing it with many more in the future.

We are really thankful for our community and its ministries, and we are not rigid nor will we refuse to change anything at the growing edge of what God has for us!

Goal: We want to joyfully follow and participate in what God will do here, looking forward to walking with Him into our future.

We want our church to grow, to thrive, and to fulfill its potential, and we are grateful for what God has done, is doing and will do.

Goal: We want to build on and expand that foundation!

We are seeking God for His preferred future for Branches and a leader who is His "fit" for us.

Goal: Please contact us if you are that: God-loving and faithful; Jesus-following and entrepreneurial; Holy Spirit-guided, uniquely gifted and innovative; and people-loving disciple, discipler and pastor.