

Monthly News and Updates

# Branches of the Cross Anglican Church, Retreat Center, and The Christian Healing Center

Sunday Service Begins at 10:30 a.m.  
followed by our Church Family Gathering

We are located at 801 Valley Crest Drive, Vista, CA 92084  
Mailing Address: 791 Valley Crest Dr., Vista, CA 92084

## In This Issue

- + Our Phone Numbers
- + January Calendar and February Highlights
- + You Need to Know
- + Bible Study: Genesis
- + Who's That?
- + This May Interest You...
- + Campus News
- + CHC News
- + Many Ways to Contact Us



A Happy & Blessed New Year to You!

**Welcome to your newsletter!** Now you can keep track of everything that is going on at BotC & the CHC for the month and beyond.

Here are the latest opportunities to strengthen your faith and connect with the community.

---

Need to contact us?  
Call us at:

BRANCHES CHURCH 760-290-8222

CHRISTIAN HEALING CENTER 760-290-8212

---

We are now on **Instagram!**  
Look for us at "Branches Church Vista"

---



## January Calendar of Events

For this month's scheduled Family or Church Retreats visit our full online calendar at [branchesvista.org](http://branchesvista.org)

**Jan. 1** Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

**Jan. 8** Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
Celebrating Epiphany

**Jan. 9-11** 3-Day Intensive Prayer  
Retreat

**Jan. 14** Vestry 9:00 a.m.

**Jan. 15** Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

**Jan. 18** Bible Study  
English 10:30 a.m.  
Spanish 7:00 p.m.

**Jan. 22** Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

**Jan. 25** Bible Study  
English 10:30 a.m.  
Spanish 7:00 p.m.

**Jan. 29** Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

*What's Coming in February*

*Beginning of Lent*

## You Need to Know

It is with sad  
hearts we say  
farewell to  
Elaine Pierce



Elaine Pierce went to be with the Lord on December 9, 2022. Fr. Gabe was with her and the family the last few days before her passing.

Fr. Gabe expressed, "It is a joy to have gotten to know such a wonderful Christian woman and see as she passed into our Lord's arms in peace, and the family rejoicing in Him for the blessedness she was to all."

Please join us in praying for continued comfort for the family.

You can read about Elaine's precious life in our September Newsletter on [branchesvista.org](http://branchesvista.org).



## December Miracle Baby

Meet Deanna Ray's 8th Great Grandchild, Simon Norton Spence. Simon was born prematurely at 33 weeks on December 13 at 4 lbs. His parents were expecting his arrival in February.

Adding him to multiple prayer chains, Deanna says he wanted to be here to celebrate Christmas!

Simon's mom Sara says, "He looks like he's saying 'Praise God!'" At his birth Simon was hooked up to oxygen and everything else plus a feeding tube. The doctors have now removed the oxygen and, according to Simon's dad Scott, Simon is strong and improving every day.

Thank you Lord for answering prayers!

## BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF GENESIS

**On Wednesday,  
January 18**, we are going to begin the new year from the

beginning with Genesis the first Book of the Bible. You are always welcome join us online or at the chapel any time during the study.



Fr. Gabe will teach in English and Spanish.

[ENGLISH Study](#) at 10:30 a.m.

[SPANISH Study](#) at 7:00 pm.

You can choose to join us in the Chapel, or use this link to join us online through the Branches of the Cross website.

Click here to access the Zoom link on our Home Page:

[branchesvista.org](http://branchesvista.org) and scroll down to the time you want to join.

***Who's That?*** Every month we will be highlighting a member of the BotC congregation. They are randomly picked and you could be asked next! What a great way for members to get to know our church family!

This month we are featuring **Bob Graves**



Bob Graves is Director of the Christian Healing Center (CHC) at Branches, acting treasurer of the church, and a member of the vestry with his term ending in January.

He grew up in the sand dunes of northern Indiana, 10 miles east of Gary. Because he loved water sports, he tells people he grew up in Lake Michigan. During high school, he and

a friend did various odd jobs in the morning to make money to buy gas for water skiing in the afternoon.

The town he lived in was so small that no denomination would bother putting a church there. So his father and some other men in the community made a deal with the Presbyterians to provide a pastor on the condition that he would focus on the core beliefs of Christianity and avoid those issues that cause denominations to argue with each other. With that background, he was right at home with the nondenominational ministry of the CHC.

Despite being a churchgoer all his life, Bob didn't really understand what Christianity was all about. For him, it was intellectual, not personal, in the head but not in the heart. Then in 1975 he viewed the filmed testimony of Pat and Shirley Boone in which they told how they turned away from the drugs, alcohol, and sex life of Hollywood and came to know Jesus personally. That night it clicked and Bob loves telling Evangelical friends how he came to know Christ personally in the Catholic Church!

Always a lover of the outdoors, Bob was introduced to backpacking in college, and later as a Scoutmaster led his three sons and the other scouts on more than 2000 miles of backpacking and more than 50 peak climbs. He and his wife Cory visited Yosemite for some hiking this October; that's



the picture you see above.

Following his retirement in 2011, Bob volunteered to serve on the CHC board and built the accounting system that was used there for several years. His wife Cory had served as a prayer minister there since 2003, but Bob didn't view healing as his gift. Following an evening event at the CHC, Cory asked then-Director Fr. Joe Rees to pray for the knee that was bothering her and he dragged Bob into the prayer circle. Not wanting to make a scene, Bob mumbled a few words not believing that his prayers would make any difference. Afterward, Fr. Joe pulled him aside and admonished him to pray with authority since as her husband he has special authority over the health of her body. Bob mumbled agreement but didn't believe a word of it. So God went to work, giving Cory all sorts of physical problems so that Bob could learn to pray with authority and effectiveness. Now he knows how right Fr. Joe was and shares the story with other men as the opportunity arises.

Not long after that event, Bob joined Cory as a CHC Prayer Minister, wrote and presented some of the talks given at the 3-day retreats, and became a close friend of Fr. Tim Laundrie who asked him to join the vestry as representative of the CHC. He became the CHC Director when Fr. Tim moved to Northern California.

We are truly blessed to have Bob with us at Branches in the many capacities he fills so capably with his expertise!



## December 4th Friendsgiving Celebration Highlights

Look what you missed!  
Friendsgiving Day was fun  
as we celebrated with  
awesome homemade pies  
prepared by Pati Hyenga,  
plus music, hot apple cider  
and, of course, friends!  
Plan to join us next year!





## This may interest you...



Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I am writing to bring your attention to the upcoming World Mission Sunday in February during Epiphany.\* Epiphany is a season where people, like the original Magi, are enlightened to the Good News that Jesus is the Promised One—the Messiah. I could not think of a better time of the year to celebrate and highlight world missions than in this important season between Christmastide and Lent. This day offers us, as a Province, a chance to consider what each of us can do to advance the Kingdom of Christ around the world.

People outside the Christian faith can look at world events from the past year and feel hopeless. Even believers, when we look at circumstances and not at Jesus, can become discouraged and paralyzed at the great needs that surround us. The need to advance the Kingdom is not only an international concern; it is also a domestic one. Only China and India have more people without a saving knowledge of Jesus than those living in the United States right now. Psalm 2 aptly describes the situation both then and now:

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the

Lord and against his Anointed...

Only Jesus satisfies our greatest needs. I am so thankful that Psalm 2 does not leave us in a hopeless state. Instead, we witness a Messianic promise given to Jesus by the Father:

The Lord said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

We are a people of hope, and Jesus calls us to spread this hope—this light to every corner of the world so that one day every tribe, tongue, and nation will proclaim Jesus is Lord!

This past fall at the New Wineskins Global Mission Conference, the 111 vision was cast to challenge every Anglican to Be the One who shares their faith, to See the One around you who needs to hear that Jesus loves and died for them, and to Share the One True God. This Be, See and Share - 111 vision is easy to remember and calls each of us to live life on mission for Jesus in this dark world.

This World Mission Sunday, I ask you to ponder how God is calling you to share the Good News to fulfill the Great Commission. It could be as simple as an act of kindness to a newly-arrived refugee. Perhaps God is calling you to pray for an unreached people group to hear and believe. For some of us, it might even mean going across the world.

If you are prayerfully considering short-term or long-term opportunities to advance the Kingdom of Christ, I encourage you to contact your diocese's Global Mission Initiative Advocate and visit [newwineskins.org](http://newwineskins.org) to learn more. You can also find great resources for World Mission Sunday at <https://newwineskins.org/worldmissionsunday>. Let's accept the 111 challenge both individually and corporately until all have heard and had a chance to respond to the Gospel!

Lastly, I want to leave you with the Prayer for Mission, that we pray each week:

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

In Christ,

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach

Archbishop and Primate, Anglican Church in North America

\* The designated dates for World Mission Sunday for 2023 are Feb. 5 or Feb. 12. The official date for the future will be the second to last Sunday in Epiphany.

---

## *Campus News*

### **Plan Your 2023 Retreats Now**

Cristina Morett is ready to help you schedule your church, family, or ministry retreat(s) for 2023 here at our Branches campus!

With Cristina's 30+ years of experience working with various groups as a speaker, planner, organizer, and host for all kinds of events, she can help you plan for success!

Contact Cristina to book your retreat using the link below.

[branchesretreat@gmail.com](mailto:branchesretreat@gmail.com)



Do you enjoy hosting? Iva Heide needs helpers after the Sunday church services...

## Fellowship

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Iva can use your help on ANY Sunday.

Your choice as to what to serve. Maybe 15 to 18 people on Sundays will be there. You never know. This is an easy group, they like almost anything you bring. Juice or water for drinking, and coffee.

Or maybe just donuts or coffee cakes for those days? Let Iva know if you can help and which date.

[rheide1@cox.net](mailto:rheide1@cox.net). Or text 442-515-2984

## YEAR-END and NEW YEAR GIVING

**The Branches bank account is  
in need of a booster shot!**

We have a wonderful opportunity to continue serving the Christian community.

Apart from the 3-Day and 1-Day Healing Intensive retreats, there are several ministries and churches that are looking at using the Branches of the Cross campus facilities. And I am asking that you be a part of it. By walking together with us to complete the building and restoration projects, you will be serving the large Church in ways that none of us can fathom.

Let's walk together and see the greatness of God manifested in our midst.

So far we have collected about one-third of the cost for the kitchen remodel and our monthly expenses are keeping Branches in the red about \$2000 each month.

**We truly need your help!** Please allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart, if you are able, join us in this effort by contributing to cover the



---

# *Christian Healing Center News*

---

## **GOD DID IT!**

### **Testimonies of God at Work**

---



Hello to all. I am Kelly Steindorf. I serve as a prayer minister for the Christian Healing Center. I participated in the 3-Day Intensive Prayer retreat back in 2016, I believe. It was such an amazing experience. There were things that I needed to deal with that I was not aware were effecting my life. You get a lot of insight and healing by attending a 3-Day. The part that sticks with me the most is when I received a blessing from Fr. Timothy during the closing event. He looked me square in the eyes and said "I see You!" In that moment Fr. Timothy was transformed into Jesus. It was something I had been needing to know throughout the 3-Day. I have been serving as a prayer minister for several years now. No matter what the details are surrounding the event God always shows up. I have prayed for some who have been serving in other countries as prayer ministers. I feel inadequate to pray over them. God reminds me that it is not me but Him that is there to meet their needs. It always amazes me the change we see in attendees from the first day to the third day. God meets them in their needs and begins to help them let go of the issues that He does not want them to carry any longer. Some of these burdens are known and some are buried deep inside them. Through the teaching that goes on during the 3 days and with prayer, they can experience healing from God. They can know they are seen by Him just as I was. They have physical, emotional and spiritual needs met. They are blessed by attending.

We as prayer ministers are also blessed to see how God is working in our lives and those we pray with. We often comment about who gets more from the 3 days, the prayee or the prayer? We all submit to God's teaching and let him do the heavy lifting. If you have not experienced the 3-Day before, please consider it. If you want to be one of us who are blessed to pray with the attendees please get in contact with the CHC. We are always in need of more prayer

ministers: There are many who are in need of a special touch from God.

Kelly Steindorf

12-25-22

---



## Upcoming Events at the Christian Healing Center (CHC)

**3-Day Intensive Prayer Retreat is  
January 9-11**

**Applications are being accepted and must be  
received by January 4th**

**Contact Bob Graves if you plan to attend.**

For upcoming months send in your application early.  
Positions are filled on a first come first served basis.

To learn more about the prayer retreats and print an application go to our  
website [branchesvista.org](http://branchesvista.org)

There is no charge, although we do appreciate donations.

## WHY NOT START THE YEAR OFF WITH A NEW AND IMPROVED YOU!!

In our 3-Day Intensive Prayer Retreats, God does some amazing healings, both inner and physical. Isn't it time for you to clean up the stuff you've been carrying around for years? Throughout life, especially in childhood and the teenage years, we all experience hurtful things that people say or do, and many people experience abuse, bullying, and traumatic events. These experiences often adversely affect our self-confidence, our relationships, and the effectiveness of our professional lives and our service to people in need. Allow God to heal those emotional wounds and the painful memories that attend them, to set you free from the conscious and subconscious things that have been holding you back from doing the things you wish you could do, and to bring new joy and fulfillment in your relationships, your career, and your service to others.



Fill out an application and let God change your life and set you free.

### Sign Up For Any 1 or 3-Day.

If you are interested in a 1-Day or a 3-Day Intensive prayer time, get your paperwork in early to be assured a spot on the month you want to attend. It is on a first come, first served basis. Just click on this link [1-Day & 3-Day form](#) they both use the same form, and scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the button that says "1-Day & 3-Day Intensive Application." Print, fill out and mail as directed. Questions? email [CHC.branchesvista@gmail.com](mailto:CHC.branchesvista@gmail.com)

The 1-Day is designed for those unable to attend a 3-Day Intensive Prayer Retreat during the week and are held throughout the year on a Saturday.

Get more information on any 1-Day or 3-Day Prayer Retreat, or to come for Personal Prayer Ministry, contact: [CHC.branchesvista@gmail.com](mailto:CHC.branchesvista@gmail.com) or go to our website at [branchesvista.org](http://branchesvista.org)

The email can also be used to submit 1 or 3-Day Intensive Prayer applications.



### Do you have the gift of hospitality and enjoy preparing meals?

CHC is looking for a volunteer(s) to prepare breakfasts and lunches during our 3-Day Intensive Prayer Retreats that are held once a month. With our new kitchen it will be a real pleasure to cook and prepare food for the retreatants. To quote from Rev. Josh Acton (OSL National Director) in his new book *The Gifted Life* concerning hospitality, "Just as healing is a gift demonstrating the power in the Kingdom of God for each of us to be made whole in mind, body, and spirit, so hospitality is a gift that reflects the Kingdom of God, where there is joy, love, acceptance, listening and caring for others. Those who have the gift of hospitality can share in Kingdom living and make others feel special, and we need this desperately in our world today." If you feel that God is calling you to this ministry and want to know more, contact [Carolyn Burns](#).

## is in Need of Prayer Ministers.

If you feel you are called to pray for others with a heart of love and compassion this could be your ministry. Do you feel you do not have enough experience? We will team you up with a trained, experienced prayer minister as you intercede for people during a 3-Day retreat, 1-Day retreat, or personal prayer sessions. We can also lead you to resources to help you grow and learn to minister to those who are in need of our healing prayers. Want to know more? Contact Bob Graves at [CHC.branchesvista.org](http://CHC.branchesvista.org).

### *Are you a member of OSL and looking for a Healing Community to join?*

We would love to have you join our online Kingdom Life Healing Community affiliated with the Christian Healing Center. Fr. Gabe Garcia from Branches of the Cross Anglican Church which supports the CHC, is our chaplain. He walks us through wonderful teachings each month.

Our online Zoom group meets every 4th Sunday at 6:30 p.m. for one hour.

To join just *send an email* and we'll add you to our roster. Blessings!  
Carolyn Burns & Sharon Okada, Co-Conveners



# OSL

A MINISTRY OF  
CHRISTIAN HEALING

[OSLTODAY.ORG](http://OSLTODAY.ORG)

The International Order of St. Luke (OSL) has **online training for new discerning prayer ministers and seasoned members**. The new training program will benefit ALL OSL members whether you have been a prayer minister for many years, or considering becoming a prayer minister. These re-designed, Bible based, in-depth classes run for 13 weeks and covers the 26 healing miracles of Jesus and how they apply to us today. The classes are FREE and online or in person. You can choose the month you want to begin and the teacher(s) you would like to connect with. **DON'T MISS OUT!**

If you are considering this blessed, fulfilling work, now is your chance to start.

If you are already an OSL prayer minister and haven't gone through this new training, please do. Those who have taken the course are happy they did. We want everyone to be "on the same page" as we proceed into greater works for our Lord.

Go online to [osltoday.org](http://osltoday.org) and check out the program under the "Find Healing" tab.

## PRAYER CORNER

Are you, or someone you know, in need of



prayer? BotC and CHC has a dedicated team of intercessory prayer ministers ready to take your prayer request to our Father God on your behalf. Contact: [prayers.branchesvista@gmail.com](mailto:prayers.branchesvista@gmail.com) to send in your request.



If you would like personal prayer contact: [CHC.branchesvista@gmail.com](mailto:CHC.branchesvista@gmail.com) for further information.



---

## CONTACT US:

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

[prayers.branchesvista@gmail.com](mailto:prayers.branchesvista@gmail.com)

### 3-DAY & 1-DAY RETREAT INFO & APPLICATIONS, and PERSONAL PRAYER INFORMATION:

[CHC.branchesvista@gmail.com](mailto:CHC.branchesvista@gmail.com)

### CAMPUS RETREATS CRISTINA MORETT

[branchesretreat@gmail.com](mailto:branchesretreat@gmail.com)

### FR. GABE GARCIA:

[rev.gmartingarcia@gmail.com](mailto:rev.gmartingarcia@gmail.com)

### CHURCH OFFICE:

[office.branchesvista@gmail.com](mailto:office.branchesvista@gmail.com)

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

send your comments, questions

---

Church Phone: 760-290-8222  
Christian Healing Center Phone: 760-290-8212

To receive our newsletter send your contact information to:  
[Office.BranchesVista@gmail.com](mailto:Office.BranchesVista@gmail.com)

Website [branchesvista.org](http://branchesvista.org)