

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

- + New Phone Numbers
- + December Calendar and January Highlights
- + Community Gatherings
- + Bible Study: Galatians +
- + Who's That?
- + This May Interest You...
- + Campus News
- + CHC News
- + Many Ways to Contact Us



Prepare for His Coming

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.

Please make note we now have
NEW PHONE NUMBERS

BRANCHES CHURCH is now: 760-290-8222

CHRISTIAN HEALING CENTER is now: 760-290-8212

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



December Calendar of Events

For this month's scheduled Family or Church Retreats visit our full online calendar at branchesvista.org

Dec. 4 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
FRIENDSGIVING Celebration 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Dec. 7 Bible Study
English 10:30 a.m.
Spanish/English 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 10 Vestry Meeting 9:00 am

Dec. 11 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Last day to collect for Toys for Tots

Dec. 14 Bible Study
English 10:30 a.m.
Spanish/English 7:00 p.m.

DEC. 17 Christmas Concert
Starts at 3:00 PM

Dec. 18 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 21 Bible Study
English 10:30 a.m.
Spanish/English 7:00 p.m.

DEC. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
Candle light Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 28 Bible Study
English 10:30 a.m.
Spanish/English 7:00 p.m.

What's Coming in January

New Bible Study on Genesis

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Branches Church is thankful



NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDSGIVING

Celebration

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

to God for having such wonderful neighbors!

Join us on December 4th after our Sunday service from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. We will set up at Disciple House and celebrate with pie and hot beverages. There will be music and crafts and a fun time!



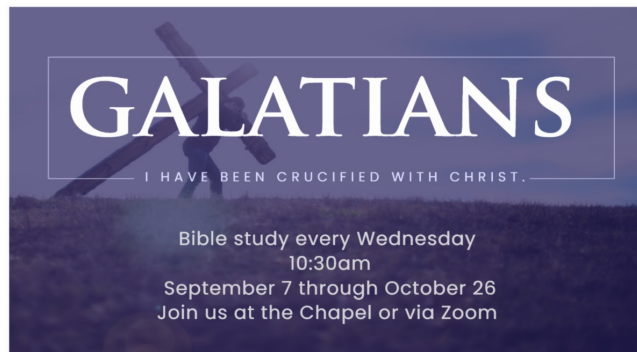
DECEMBER 17
Beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Saturday afternoon
Christmas Concert!

We will be holding a neighborhood candle light Christmas concert with hot drinks and Christmas cookies. Come join the fun!

BIBLE STUDY THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

St. Paul wrote many valuable lessons for us to learn in his letters. You will receive study notes and hear wonderful concepts on how St. Paul's writings can affect our daily lives and thinking patterns. It's never too late to jump in and join us online or at the chapel.



Fr. Gabe will teach in English and Spanish.

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

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

**IN JANUARY WE WILL BEGIN WITH THE BEGINNING
AND STUDY THE BOOK OF GENESIS.**

Watch for further announcements.

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

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

branchsvista.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 **Deanna Ray** by Iva Heide



I was born Oct. 7, 1938 in Washington, D.C. the 4th and youngest child of George & Lucile Moore who also had Joyce, George & Claudia. We lived in a small cold water flat. My parents found a larger place soon after I was born because I was sleeping in a dresser drawer between 2 kitchen chairs. Later we moved into a 3 bedroom house in the Projects about 6 blocks from the Capital and 3 blocks from 8th & I Marine Barracks. We all went St Peter's Catholic school where we walked home for lunch and back again. After the War my parents were able to buy a home in Falls Church, VA, where we walked to St James school & Church. I was also a Girl Scout there. I returned to the old neighborhood for HS at St Cecilia's, Claudia went to St Mary's in Alexandria.

At 16 I got my first job at G C Murphy's 5 & Dime after school but things changed and I left school and got a job at Thompson's Dairy. They trained me to be a billing clerk. My take home was \$42.50 a week. Much better than the 75 cents an hour at the dime store where you made about \$20 depending on how many hours you worked. During this time I met my future husband Art a Sgt in the Marine Corp. It was not love at first sight but we got to know each other and things changed. However he got orders back to Division, and a 3 year tour to Japan, Okinawa, or Hawaii. The first 2 locations did not allow dependents, but his unit was sent to Hawaii in September and at the end of February I joined him there. We were married by a Chaplain in a mess hall where on Saturday nights they would cover things up so church services could be held on Sunday. Our oldest child Cara was born in Hawaii and at 8 months old we returned stateside.

Art was now a Staff/Sgt stationed in Quantico, VA. Five month's later our son Von was born there and 6 weeks after our youngest Thais was born we were now living in Fort Mead, MD and Art was a Tech Sgt. Cara & Von started school there and acquired a border collie named Tramp. After 4 1/2 years in Maryland Art had orders to Vietnam, so the kids, myself and Tramp went as far as we could with him. We drove and made the trip as special as we could, then bought a house in Oceanside and waited and prayed for Dad. We sent letters and later tapes and care packages.

We attended St Ann's in Oceanside and stayed busy, then hallelujah Dad came home as a First Sgt with orders for Fort Worth, TX. Thais finally got to start school there.

After a year in Texas Art decided it was time to put in his papers and retire. He served in 3 wars always in weapons. WWII, Korean and Vietnam as a Gunnery Sergeant.

In June of 1968 we left Texas and returned to Oceanside. The kids grew up here active in Scouting and we attended All Saint's Church and they went to school in Vista. I too was active in Church, Scouts, and school. Cara became a special needs teacher. Thais became a Nurse Practitioner and Von served 20 years in the Air Force. The 3 are all happily married and from these marriages I am blessed with 8 grand children, 7 great grand children with another on the way due in February, and they all call me "Annie."

I was widowed 27 years ago but Art saw 5 grand children born before he passed.

We are blessed to have Deanna at Branches. She serves on the vestry and as the coordinator/teacher of the altar guild. She also loves to do Genealogy or family history and also sews, quilts, crochets, knits and her favorite is counted cross stitch.



Deanna's family Christmas of 1994, and to the right, photos of her 3 children Cara, Von and Thais.



This may interest you...



TOYS FOR TOTS

Join in on the annual drive of Toys for Tots

Scott Hauser is offering to collect toys at Branches and take them to the Foothills of San Marcos Clubhouse by December 11.

Bring an unwrapped toy or toys for children ages 4 through 12 to Branches Church **no later than DECEMBER 11** where Scott will collect them. He will take the toys to his drop off point and then they will go to the Marine Corps headquarters to distribute to needy families. This has always been very successful and we thank all of you for helping put some joy into a child's Christmas.

Victory Outreach Church Men's Home

Victory Outreach Christmas 2022

Victory Outreach is a Christian Men's home provided for men who have been through a treatment plan for alcohol, drugs or both. At Christmas for eight or more years, Iva Heide and Pati Heyenga

have supplied small backpacks with personal items for the men. This year we are supplying for 12 men. Before her passing, Joyce Burrow had almost completed the items for the backpacks!

Watch your emails in the next few days for further information on what more is needed and how to get it to us. Or you can contact [Iva Heide](#) with any questions.

The deadline for this project will be December 18.

Do you know someone who needs Christ in their life?

Join us with
1-2-3 PRAY

It's Not Too Late to Begin!
Here is how 1-2-3 Pray works:

We will join together in intercession during the Advent season for people we know who need an encounter with Jesus.

1. We commit to praying for **1 minute every day Mon - Fri.**
2. We take time to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit on **what 2 people we should intercede for** during this season.
3. We stop whatever we are doing and **pray at 3:00 p.m. each day.**

Our intercession calendar for these 2 people will be during Advent
(starting Nov 28 and ending Dec 23)

Please fill out the information sheet at church (or send an email*) with your name and the first name of the two people you are praying for in order for the rectory to pray along with you for the specific people the Holy Spirit lays on your heart.

- Online - email: rev.gmartingarcia@gmail.com

Campus News

Cristina Morett named

Director of Retreats for our Branches Campus

BotC is happy to announce Cristina Morett as our new Director of Retreats!

Cristina has over 30 years of experience working with various groups as a speaker, planner, organizer, and host for all kinds of events. And an added bonus, she is Fr. Gabe's wife!



We look forward to amplifying our ministry with Cristina and hosting churches, families, and ministries at Branches Retreat Center. Contact Cristina to book your retreat using the link below.

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. Or text 442-515-2984

WE ALSO NEED HELP WITH RETREAT MEALS

Whether it's a 3-Day retreat, a weekend church retreat, or a special guest coming to use our facilities, we could use your help with preparing meals and cleanup. Team work makes the work load light. Click on this link ["I'LL HELP"](#) and let Carolyn know you can be available when an occasion arises.

KITCHEN REMODEL NEWS

The kitchen remodel is complete!

And what a beautiful kitchen it is!
You will have to come and see it for yourself.



We have so much to be thankful for!

The kitchen remodel at Disciple House is complete.

It was a major remodel but finally the house has an adequate draining and sewage system. There is ample refrigerator and freezer space, AND there is a pantry! The cabinets, countertop and floor are beautiful!

The cost put us way over budget by at least \$20,000 due to the rising cost of materials, unexpected repairs and extra construction.

So we are appealing to you. **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 overage in costs.

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.

Rev. G. Martin Garcia

Rector, Branches of the Cross Church

Christian Healing Center News

GOD DID IT!

Testimonies of God at Work

My experience at this prayer retreat was profound! In my application there were several things I wanted to work on. But God had a better idea! I realized through the study and prayer time with my prayer ministers that I had to be healed of my traumatic childhood! I thought that I had it all under control! Thank you Lord for showing me that you are in control and not me!

I left there with a new insight on life and how much our Savior can take care of, if we just let Him! My analogy for the three days was: Jesus drove a big ole garbage truck into my prayer room, filled it up with garbage and took it all to the dump! I'll never see it again!! Praise God!!

I now have the tools I need to deal with many things that were holding me back in life and I know that our Lord and Savior will be right by my side on my journey! God sent me there at just the right moment in my life! I would recommend this retreat to any Christian new or old. The worship was

uplifting and inspiring! The food was GREAT! Thank you to all the people who run this retreat!! God bless you!

Cindy Kerns



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**.



Upcoming Events at the Christian Healing Center (CHC)

The 3-Day Intensive Prayer Retreat for December is not accepting applications at this time.

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 go to our website 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 for 2023 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

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 or go to our website at branchesvista.org

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



The Christian Healing Center 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.

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-Convener



OSL

A MINISTRY OF
CHRISTIAN HEALING

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 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 to send in your request.



If you would like personal prayer contact:
CHC.branchesvista@gmail.com for further information.



CONTACT US:

PRAYER REQUESTS:

prayers.branchesvista@gmail.com

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

CHC.branchesvista@gmail.com

CAMPUS RETREATS CRISTINA MORETT

branchesretreat@gmail.com

FR. GABE GARCIA:

rev.gmartingarcia@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE:

office.branchesvista@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

send your comments, questions

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Christian Healing Center Phone: 760-290-8212

To receive our newsletter send your contact information to:

Office.BranchesVista@gmail.com

Website branchesvista.org