

Monthly News and Updates

Branches of the Cross Anglican Church & Retreat Center Sponsor of 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

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A hidden place of tranquility at BotC

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.

Attention!

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"



September Calendar of Events

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

Sept. 4 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sept. 5 Labor Day

Sept. 7 NEW Bible Study on Galatians
English 10:30 a.m.
Spanish 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 10 Vestry Meeting 9:00 a.m.

Sept. 11 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Sept. 12-14 3-Day Intensive Prayer

Sept. 14 Bible Study on Galatians
Spanish 7:00 p.m. No morning lesson

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

Sept. 21 Bible Study on Galatians
English 10:30 a.m.
Spanish 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 24 1-Day Intensive Prayer

Sept. 25 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Sept. 28 Bible Study on Galatians
English 10:30 a.m.
Spanish 7:00 p.m.

What's Coming In October

Oct. 7-9 Deanery Campout
Oct. 10-12 3-Day Intensive Prayer
Oct. 21-22 Diocesan Synod

4th Annual Deanery Camp Out
October 7-9



The San Diego Deanery will host its 4th Annual camp out this October 7th – 9th it is a time for all of our local churches to gather for fun, food, and worship. If you would like to join us please RSVP to your church administrator - **Carolyn Burns** with the following information:

- Type of camping (i.e. tent or RV)
- How many in your family
- Are you willing to share a campsite (each site fits up to 8 people)

The deadline for reservations is: September 6

Please, do not wait as spots will fill up quickly!

The cost for the full weekend is **\$68 per site**.

You may mail your check to Holy Spirit Anglican Church, 5512 Pennsylvania Lane, La Mesa, CA 91942. On the check memo write SDA camp out.

Deanery Camp Out BBQ – All Invited!

On the evening of Saturday, October 8th the deanery will host a BBQ at the campsite.

The deanery will provide hamburgers and hotdogs; please bring a side dish to share.

This event is for all so even if you are unable to make it for the weekend a day pass may be purchased as you enter the camp. RSVP with your church administrator.

2022 Diocesan Synod You are invited!



This is a good time to gather and meet one another, the only time all year that we get to celebrate as a whole diocese.

Everyone is invited on October 21–22.

LOCATION: Presbyterian Church of The Master
26051 Marguerite Parkway
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

Synod, as defined historically,



Bishop Andrew Williams, Bishop of New England

The plenary speaker at DWA Synod 2022 will be Bishop Andrew Williams. He asks how can we effectively be the salt and light of the world? How do we best work for God's Kingdom? He will be teaching on these topics at the Synod!

Bishop Andrew began his professional life as a corporate litigator in the United Kingdom, but despite a successful career, he began to sense that something significant was missing in his life. He and his wife, Elena found themselves drawn into something far deeper, and ultimately came to

is a gathering of the leaders of a Diocese, both ordained and lay, who prayerfully consider in God's presence the important matters that are before the Church. In a Synod, one may expect to be inspired, encouraged, taught and trained for more effective ministry through the Church. To learn more go to [2022 Synod](#) to register and find hotel info.

a living faith in God through the love, support and friendship of their Anglican Parish. He trained for ordination at Trinity College, Bristol where he graduated with an honors degree in theology. He was ordained in the Diocese of Exeter in 2000 and spent six years as Associate Vicar of St. Andrew's, Chorleywood. Beginning in October 2009, Bp. Andrew served as the Senior Pastor of Trinity Church in Greenwich, CT. In 2019 he was elected as bishop for the Diocese of New England.

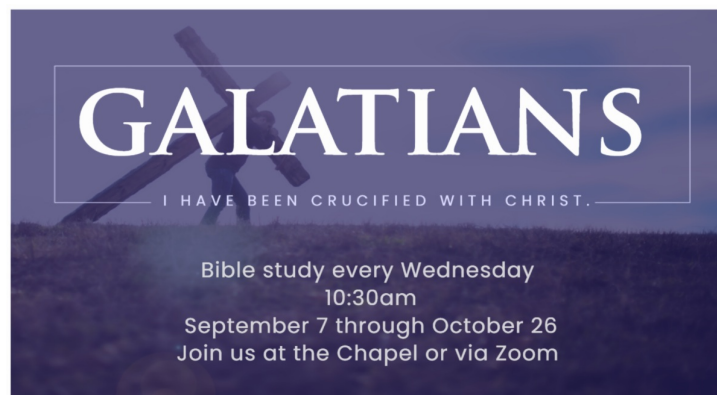
TALKS BEING OFFERED AT THE SYNOD

You will be offered the chance to attend talks (which usually include plenty of discussion) on topics including "Serving God as a Lay Minister," "Lay Driven Women's Ministry," "Lay Missioner Training," "Snakes, Spandex, and Scorpions: A How-To Approach for Meeting the Neighbors," "Beyond the Walls and Breaking the Chains," "A Regional Vision for Lay Leaders," "Lay People and the Healing Ministry," "Lay Ministry: Seniors to Seniors," and "Equipping Laity to Reach University Students."

These are a lot of ways to reach people. Inevitably, some of these talks will overlap in the schedule, but they are going to do their best to make sure you can attend the talks you want, which means offering each more than once if necessary. If you've registered, keep your eyes open for an upcoming Google Survey so you are able to attend the talks you want.

NEW BIBLE STUDY! THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

St. Paul wrote many valuable lessons for us to learn in his letters. We will begin the Book of Galatians **starting September 7**. You will receive study notes and hear wonderful concepts on how St. Paul's writings can affect our daily lives and thinking patterns.



Fr. Gabe will teach in English and Spanish.

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

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

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:

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 **ELAINE PIERCE** by Iva Heide



I was born in Hopkins, Michigan in 1928. It was a town of about 500, then 499 because I left.

I attended Michigan State University and taught Junior High School. I married Bob Pierce in 1952 after his military service in Japan and his graduation from Temple University in Pennsylvania.

We moved to Rockford, Michigan where we purchased a funeral home. After twenty years Bob found it too sad to bury friends and babies so we sold it and moved our family of 4 boys Lee, Brian, Eric, Blake and a girl Eileen to Golden, Colorado. They were all involved in sports including soccer, football, basketball and swimming. The children received a couple of scholarships which helped a lot for college. Needless to say I sat on a lot of benches as I never missed a game. Through the Booster Club at the high school we set up a concession booth inside the stadium where the students would also go into the stands to sell refreshments at the Bronco games and made thousands of dollars. We had the most well equipped and dressed athletes in the county but the most rewarding thing was the relationships that developed between parents and students.

Bob was then transferred to San Diego. I did some career counseling at a high school. Bob died in 2004.

I did many hours serving on Altar Guild for 40 years at various churches. It strengthened my faith. My church and family are the center of my life. I have 5 children, 8 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren (one named after me). Visiting family, and making felt sequin Christmas stockings since 1991 for the family, keeps me busy as our family keeps expanding. God's blessings to me are beyond belief.

Like Joyce, Elaine helps at Christmas time with buying items for the men at Victory Outreach and ringing the bells for Salvation Army.

Many of us are lucky to be receiving a daily uplifting text from Elaine for a few years now. Many have come at just the right time for me. Elaine would be happy to add anyone to her list of daily texts.

We are blessed to have Elaine as part of our church family!



Elaine and her five children



This may interest you...



The Anglican Relief
and Development Fund[®]

Support Relief Effort for the People of Ukraine from westernanglicans.org

In February 2022, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, starting a war that will have ramifications long into the future. For years, the Ukrainian people have had (limited) freedoms as an independent nation. Older Ukrainians remember life under communism and they have no desire to return to anything like that. The Ukrainian people are determined and resilient, but the bombings are taking a heavy toll. Like you, we are watching the situation with breaking hearts. ARDF is collecting funds to support the local church as they minister to those affected.

So far, we have sent funds to over a dozen partners working both in Ukraine and along the border. However, as the conflict unfolds and we have more funds to send, we will consider new ministries and continue to support our existing partners based on their needs. Thanks to incredibly generous donors from Truro Anglican Church in Fairfax, VA, we received a challenge gift of \$100,000 to kickstart this appeal. To date we have received over \$1,000,000! Thank you. Visit the Anglican Relief Development Fund website at ardf.org to see all the partners working with ARDF not only in Ukraine, but Ghana, Pakistan, South Sudan (Juba), Burundi, Egypt, and Uganda.

A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

ETERNAL GOD, IN WHOSE PERFECT KINGDOM NO SWORD IS DRAWN BUT THE SWORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, NO STRENGTH KNOWN BUT THE STRENGTH OF LOVE: SO MIGHTILY SPREAD ABROAD YOUR SPIRIT, THAT ALL PEOPLES MAY BE GATHERED UNDER THE BANNER OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE, AS CHILDREN OF ONE FATHER. GUIDE THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD INTO THE WAY OF JUSTICE AND TRUTH, AND ESTABLISH AMONG THEM THAT PEACE WHICH IS THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT THEY MAY BECOME THE KINGDOM OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

AMEN.

Campus News

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

Fellowship

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Iva will be away in October. She needs someone(s) to fill in for fellowship on the following Sunday: Oct 2



Ivan 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 could be available when an occasion arises.

KITCHEN REMODEL NEWS

The kitchen remodel is very close to being completed. A few more things to finish and it will be ready to go.



New Stove & Beautiful
Countertops!



New Cabinets & New
Windows!



New Deep Sink, New
Frig & Freezer, New
Dishwasher, New Floor!

We have so much to be thankful for!

The kitchen remodel at Disciple House is almost complete.

It is 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.

Apart from the 3-Day and 1-Day Healing Intensives, there are several ministries and churches that are looking at using the Branches of the Cross campus facilities. We have a wonderful opportunity to continue serving the Christian community. 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

When God calls, Answer!

When trying to take charge of my own life I just



was not getting it right. So, I asked God what He wanted me to do with my life to glorify Him. His answer can come in many different forms. This is what happened to me.

One evening while sitting in my chair watching a movie, the phone rang. It was Carolyn asking me if I would join her as a prayer minister on the next 3-day intensive prayer retreat in July. Without hesitation I said I would love to. No questions asked. I had no idea what I had just agreed to. I have been OSL trained and have

been a prayer minister at church, but I did not know anything about the 3-day intensive prayer retreat. I really felt at peace about accepting the request so I figured it must be a “Nudge from the Judge.” The minute I entered the CHC the Spirit came alive in me, and it lasted the full three days. After my experience those 3 days, and after seeing how God was working through all the prayer ministers, Fr. Gabe, and Woody, our worship leader, I knew I just had to attend the 3-day in August as a prayee. Oh, wow, what an experience I had. I feel so blessed. It is so freeing to get rid of all that “stuff” you don’t even know you are carrying around. It really works!! So, the moral of this story is “Answer when God calls” and do not question it because He knows your heart and what you need to do to glorify Him. I found my Joy at the CHC. Praise God!

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”—Romans 8:28

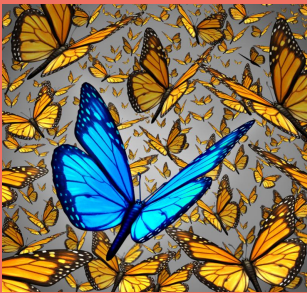
Written by Kathy Porter, Newest CHC Prayer Minister

Addendum to this story.

When I was praying and asking God who I should approach and ask to be a prayer minister for CHC He gave me Kathy’s name right away. I was hesitant to call her because she is always very busy with family. But I thought if God suggested it, then it won’t hurt to call her and ask. Imagine my surprise! It’s fun working with God!

Carolyn Burns, CHC Prayer Minister

If you have a testimony that happened here at the CHC you would like to share, send an email to this link [Newsletter Editor](#).



Upcoming Events at the Christian Healing Center (CHC)

September 12-14 **3-Day Intensive Prayer Retreat**

September 24 **1-Day Intensive Prayer Day from 9am to 5pm**

We have openings for both the 1 and 3 Day retreats.
There is no charge, although we do appreciate donations.

To learn more go to our website branchesvista.org

Sign Up For The

The special **1-Day** is designed for those unable to

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

attend a 3-Day Intensive Prayer Retreat during the week.

To sign up, or get more information on any 1-Day or 3-Day Prayer Retreat, or to come for Personal Prayer Ministry, contact:

CHC.branchesvista@gmail.com

This 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. Don't feel you do not have enough experience. We will team you up with a trained, experienced prayer minister as you pray 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) is developing online training for new 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.

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

FR. GABE GARCIA:

rev.gmartingarcia@gmail.com

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office.branchesvista@gmail.com

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