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Spring 2026

Sharings

Newsletter for our Starcross Community

NEWS • UPDATES • PROGRAMS • PROJECTS • PEOPLE

Remembering Brother Toby (1931-2025)

On August 21st, 2025, our beloved founder Brother Tolbert McCarroll passed away at Starcross. He was 94. Many friends gathered in October to celebrate Toby's unique and impactful life. He was a monk, activist, writer, visionary, and friend. We miss our brother whose dream led to the formation of this cherished community.



Planning for the Future

On the heels of Brother Toby's passing and our upcoming 50th anniversary in July, we have increased our commitment to making concrete plans for the future of Starcross. Over the past year, Sister Julie and two other residents have been engaged in regular strategic planning meetings with a professional consultant.

We're excited to share with you our renewed mission and vision statements, hoping you will continue to support our mission in the years to come.

Starcross Vision Statement

We envision a hopeful future where people experience a sense of communal and ecological belonging. We strive to provide an example of a community that responds to the needs of others with compassion and action, committed to both personal and spiritual growth.

Starcross Mission Statement

A spiritual sanctuary for people and nature, Starcross cultivates a welcoming space of natural beauty for spiritual and ecological contemplation. We are a joyful, collaborative, intergenerational community. We nurture each other's spiritual journeys and are nurtured by a simple life of stewarding the land on which we reside.

Spiritual Offerings

Some of you may remember our appeal for labyrinth-building materials in last year's Sharings.



With the help of our generous donors and labyrinth expert Lea Goode-Harris's guidance, our Starcross labyrinth is now complete and open to the public! If you'd like to walk our labyrinth, send Julie an email at sj@starcross.org.

As always, our weekly Sunday meetings remain open to all, whether in-person or over Zoom. Email Julie for how to join. Additionally, you can always submit the names of loved ones you'd like to be remembered as part of our Memorial Book offering. We read the names aloud every day at noon. The link for our Memorial Book submission can be found at <https://starcross.org/memorial-book-dedication>.

New Residents

Two new members have joined our residential community in Annapolis! Asha Drake and Mosh Becker spent

the 2025 olive harvest with us, and we loved them so much that we invited them back full-time!



With skills in farming and construction and a strong background in community living, this pair has already made a huge positive impact around our property. Please join us in welcoming Mosh and Asha to the Starcross community!

Food Pantry Updates

This year, the Starcross Food Pantry served over 220 households, reaching over 640 community members. This includes supporting the needs of over 60 seniors in our community. Thanks to the Redwood Empire Food Bank and community support, we continue to provide consistent access to food for those who need it most.

2025 Olive Harvest Recap



Last fall, 14 people from across the U.S. came together to help us harvest our olives. A mild summer meant the olives didn't get the heat needed for peak oil production, but nevertheless, we harvested over 10,000 pounds and produced 98 cases of delicious Sister Julie's Extra Virgin Olive Oil.



Our harvest volunteers live and work together, with many of them describing their time here as a profoundly meaningful experience. Interested in joining the harvest next fall? Email sj@starcross.org.

Award-Winning Oil

Speaking of olives, our 2025-harvested oil won the prestigious gold medal at the California State Fair! With an astounding polyphenol count of 675 PPM, our olive oil is packed with healthy antioxidants and bursting with our signature delicious flavor.



Now available at our farmstand and online, each bottle of olive oil purchased supports the ongoing work of Starcross. Always organic and cold-pressed onsite, our extra-virgin olive oil is a thoughtful gift and an essential staple in any home cook's kitchen.

Growing Partnership with Gualala Arts

We've partnered with the local Gualala Arts Center to host a variety of events. In January, Gualala Arts hosted a sold-out Benefit Concert on behalf of Starcross, where Brother Toby's son David McCarroll and his wife Angela Park performed. And in June, Gualala Arts is hosting two arts exhibits curated by Starcross—one show exhibiting the best photos from Sister Julie's beloved Weekly Walks, and another show detailing the long history of Starcross. If you're in town, come stop by the exhibits!



Field Trips, Ecological Events, and More!

Over the past year, we welcomed students from three different local schools for themed days including Pumpkin Day, Apple Day, and Earth Day! These outings allowed the children opportunities for hands-on learning and time in nature on a farm.

Additionally, we were proud to host a watershed listening and learning session in May in partnership with a local agricultural organization. Neighbors came together to learn more about the watershed plan and forest management for our area and to have a say in local decisions.



Job Opening

Starcross is searching for a new Director of Operations. Like all of our positions, this is no ordinary job, but a transformative experience at the intersection of communal living, operations management, and strategic planning. This position has an annual salary of \$50,000 with the expectation of 35 hours of work per week. The Director of Operations will live communally in our charming farmhouse and help to shape the community experience of our mid-term residents and seasonal volunteers. You can read the full job description on our website—please pass it along to anyone you think might be a good fit for this position and encourage them to reach out to Sister Julie (sj@starcross.org) if interested.

The “Missing Middle”

“Our people” are mostly young folks or seniors. We wish there were more middle aged friends. Depending on which generation you are in, please reach out to your parents and co-workers, or your adult children and neighbors. Tell them what you love about Starcross and we’ll welcome them to our community!



Starcross Celebrates 50th Anniversary

In July 2026, Starcross will celebrate our 50th anniversary. Making it to this major milestone in our history is no small feat, and we could not have done it alone. We are sincerely grateful to our community, whose support has sustained us spiritually and materially through the past few decades. We promise to keep doing our best to make the world a more peaceful place and to remain a sanctuary for all who need it. Keep an eye on your inbox for news about an upcoming 50th anniversary celebration!

– *Starcross Community*