



# Journal

August 2010



**STARCROSS  
COMMUNITY**

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## THE AUGUST ADVENTURE!

In his new book, *SEASONS*, Brother Toby writes that August is not simply late-summer but a unique time of its own. That is certainly true at Starcross and in the lives of many of our friends. (More information on the soon-to-be-released *Seasons* will be coming your way next week.)



**Harvest and Preserving for Winter:** Tomatoes, corn, plums, blackberries, apples, pears! It has been a late growing season and now it seems like everything is coming at once. The smells and tastes in the kitchen are great. There are also the joys of walking the olive fields and watching the little olives grow. The lavender used in the Body Oil is

perfuming the hillside around the chapel. But there is a lot of practical work needed in the fields and most mornings find Sister Julie on her faithful green tractor. Meanwhile Brother Toby has a world-class forest of basil (a staple here) and other herbs and plant sets coming along in the little greenhouse.



**Volunteer opportunity:** *If you have a few hours and are up our way contact Sister Julie ([sj@starcross.org](mailto:sj@starcross.org)) and arrange for a time to help. You will like it – and so will we!*



**Visitors come and go:** Already the swallows have trained their young and have started back to the tip of Argentina. The Snowbirds from the Northwest are starting to arrive. And we are hearing from folks coming to our SEPT 5<sup>th</sup> *Olive Oil Tasting* on the Saturday of the Labor Day Weekend. If you are in Northern California please come by. Sister Julie keeps getting



awards. Remember you can also buy on line ([www.starcross.org](http://www.starcross.org)) or on the phone 1 (800) 960-1500 and have it shipped to your door. Like others producing Extra Virgin premium oil, Sister Julie is relieved that many large scale manufacturers (domestic and foreign) of olive oil are being challenged for their improper use of terms like “extra virgin.” “Some of it doesn’t even come from olives!” she says.

**A monastery in your backyard?** In the past few months there have been requests to have more connection with friends who are unlikely, because of geography or health, to visit Starcross. A number of responses are being considered using the internet – more soon.

**An Act of Remembrance:** Every evening at the end of Vespers we pause and reflect on the lives of people you have asked to be included in our Memorial Books. We are honored to do this. Of course, this is without fee. Each name of a loved one is read out on a certain day each year.

Simply email us ([community@starcross.org](mailto:community@starcross.org)) with: (1) the name (2) dates of birth and death (3) a sentence or two saying something about the person (4) the day you would like the remembrance to take place. Most choose the birthday.



**Typists can help us out from their own homes:** *We have a number of helpful materials from Brother Toby’s early books which came out before the “digital age”. If you are a careful typist and can transcribe a section from a book into a Word document we can sure use your help. Contact me please: [sm@starcross.org](mailto:sm@starcross.org).*



**Gathering of AIDS orphans sponsors in Santa Rosa:**

Sponsors and those interested in the Starcross Kin Worldwide (SKW) program in Uganda will meet on Sunday afternoon SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> for a pleasant informational wine-country meeting at the home of SKW board member and sponsor, Vicki Bailey.

There will be up-to-date data on the program, individual young people, and the changing situation in East Africa.

For more information email SKW board member and sponsor Sandra Bodley [sdbodley@sonic.net](mailto:sdbodley@sonic.net).



**Where in the world is David McCarroll?** It has been a rich but busy summer for David. He played at the Kennedy Center in Wash. DC, then off to Berlin where he is one of two violinists accepted into a special two year program working with outstanding European violinists. He spent a month at Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont, home in August, then off to Indianapolis where he has been selected as a participant in the International Violin Competition. In October he will perform at the Caramoor Festival in New York, and then back to Europe. In his “spare time” David continues to put together plans combining the beauty of Starcross with the dreams and talents of young artists. There will definitely be such a gathering next March.



These are busy but joyful days. As the month began, brother Toby shared an ancient prayer which contained these words:

WE GIVE HEARTY THANKS AND PRAISE FOR THE RETURN  
OF HARVEST, FOR THE INCREASE OF THE GROUND AND  
THE GATHERING IN OF ITS FRUIT. . .MAY THERE APPEAR  
IN OUR LIVES A HUMBLE, HOLY, AND OBEDIENT STEW-  
ARDSHIP OF CREATION AND ALL ITS GOODNESS.

In peace,

*Sister Marti*