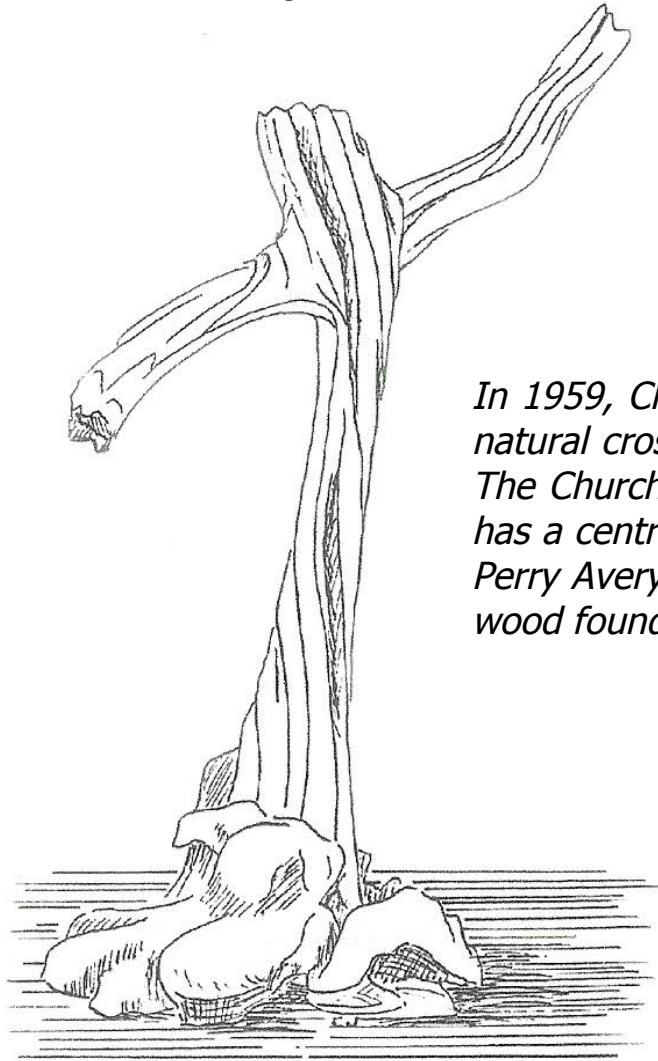


The Story Behind our Sanctuary's Chancel Cross



In 1959, Cleon and Alice Etter discovered a natural cross near Sedona. They gave it to The Church of the Red Rocks and it always has a central place in our chancel area. Dr. Perry Avery, 1970-1973, mounted it on burl wood found by Clyde Etter, Cleon's brother.

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

This rustic cross, this sign of love,
This branch, this sinew from a tree
Once raised a living arm above
Towards a blue eternity.
For years this cross has been a part
Of worship here – for all to share,
A symbol toward which every heart
Can turn with peace in private prayer.
This is no rigid rack of pain.
Instead, it symbolizes good.
The strength of God through sun and rain;
Flows in the rhythms of this wood.
Christ when on earth with vigor trod,

Part of a great eternal plan.
He still is here, the Son of God.
This is a symbol of that man.
One arm beckons to us all
To share the grace of God above.
It curves to gather great and small
Within his sturdy arm of love.
And one arm points, "This is the way,"
A gesture filled with urgency.
Within our hearts we hear Him say,
"Come now in love – and follow me!"
His body turns as to depart.
He calls us; but to hear His voice.
Each one must listen with his heart,
And each of us must make a choice.

- *Charles Jorgensen*