



THE FRANCISCAN STAFF

The Newsletter of the people of
Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church
600 South La Cañada Drive
Green Valley AZ 85614

Vol. 61, No. 3

May/June 2024

Our mission is to live as Christ's heart and hands in the world.

Words From Warren . . .

Dear friends of St. Francis,

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday were a busy time at St. Francis in the Valley. Twenty-five people attended the studies offered in the Parish Hall led by Mike Kuebler, and another twenty-five attended the study on Forgiveness held in four different locations including La Posada, for a total of fifty people.

The evening study session showed that there is a need to run studies or events in the evening for people working through the day. When possible, we will continue to offer alternative times to include as many people as possible.

Three Wishes Feedback: The facilitators of the feedback sessions will be meeting with me shortly after this newsletter is printed, so more information of fall follow-up sessions to come.

In the meantime, some preliminary comments include more small groups for Bible studies, develop a strategic charting plan for development of the church's future, provide a Community Resource bulletin board, Food Basket suggestions and reminders in the bulletin, provide an area in the front of the church for disabled worshippers, the importance of the Eucharist each week, classes on how to use the Bible and how to use the BCP (Book of Common Prayer), bring a friend to church Sundays, and lots of comments on music.

Music is an area people would like to discuss. One idea I have had for a while is to put together a worship committee of three or four people to work with me, Deacon Becky and Gerald Near our Music Director. This committee will look at music variety and options as well as look at seasonal liturgies from resources such Enrich Our Worship (EOW), an Episcopal Church resource book.

One specific comment I do want to address directly is about some people feeling that the clergy are too busy to ask for time to talk. I want to be clear that while we are busy, meeting with someone who needs to talk or needs some counselling has always been a priority in addition to pastoral visitations.

If you, or someone you know needs to talk about some personal issues, please call or email me or Deacon Becky to set up an appointment. We are always available or will find a time and place to meet and talk.

With summer coming, I will be looking ahead to the fall to begin various home study groups as well as studies at the church. Please send me your requests on the kind of study you are interested in. We have several experienced study leaders that would be happy to include

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Words From Warren, continued

your topic at some point through the year.

For those interested in learning the basics of the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, and the Episcopal Church, there will be a class starting this fall in preparation for our Bishop's visit on Sunday, December 15.

The date for the start of this class will be in the next newsletter. The class will be for anyone interested in being Received or Confirmed into the Episcopal Church, as well as anyone just wanting to learn.

Finally a comment on Lent, Holy Week and Easter: Holy Week services had a similar attendance to 2023, but Easter Sunday hit a pre-pandemic high of 255 worshippers!

A special thank you to everyone who worked behind the scenes throughout Lent: Deacon Becky Williamson, The Altar Guild, the Social Activities Team who provided food for the Wednesday suppers, the Stations of the Cross leaders, the Ushers & Greeters, the acolytes, crucifers, lectors and prayer leaders, the Audio/Visual teams, the Sunday coffee teams, the choir and our organist Michael and Music director Gerald, and our sextons who set up and cleaned up after every event and service. I hope I didn't miss anyone!

As you can see, we have a very busy church and amazing volunteers. As we "Reimagine" St. Francis, the goal will be to build upon what we have and to be forward looking. There is much we do, but there is much more we can and need to do.

Upcoming: For those heading away on vacations or heading back north, we will see you when you get back. For those who will still be here in May, please come and welcome our Diocesan Canon to the Ordinary, Anita Braden, to our Pentecost Sunday Service May 19. Canon Anita will be our guest preacher. A meal will follow the service.

On Sunday May 26, we welcome back the local Sheriff's Auxiliary Honor Guard to our Memorial Day Sunday service on May 26. They will be doing the beautiful flag folding ceremony. Memorial/Remembrance poppies will be given to all who attend the service.

Have a blessed summer.

Fr. Warren

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600 South La Cañada Drive, Green Valley AZ 85614

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THE RT. REV. JENNIFER REDDALL, D.D.

Bishop

THE VERY REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH

Rector

The Rev. Becky Williamson

Deacon

The Rev. Linda Hutson

Deacon

THE VESTRY

Gary LaBarre, Senior Warden

Jim Ratley, Junior Warden

Alice Walker, Joyce Davison,

Joyce Kaminski, Glenn Matto,

Phil Vande-Reit, Rena Robbins, Jean Ross,

Cheryl Tardy-Albin, Bobbi Tucker,

ex officio: Gloria Cadwalader, Treasurer

Lou Terry, Clerk

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Organist

Sharlyn Matthews

Director Emeritus, Handbell Ensemble

Sophia Witte

Handbell Ensemble Director

Matthew Harby

Lead Sexton

Nathaniel Martinez

Sexton

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Green Valley, is to live as Christ's heart and hands
in the world.*

Franciscan Focus

St. Francis has long been involved in helping immigrants. In March, 2017, St. Francis' Immigration and Refugee Committee, working jointly with the Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest in Tucson, agreed to co-sponsor an Afghan family coming from the UN Refugee camp in Romania. The Lutheran Services found a two bedroom, one bath apartment in Tucson, and St. Francis' job was to totally furnish it. In four days' time, Committee members had everything in place, including food in the refrigerator. Over twenty St. Francis members met the family of five at the airport and took the father, Mohammad, age 80, and his four adult daughters, Soghra, Fatima, Marzia, and Razieh to their apartment in Tucson. (Airfare was \$1,000 per person which was provided to them by the Episcopal Migration Ministries, an interest-free loan, which they paid back.)

Through the years we have offered our support to the family in many, many ways: Helping Fatima find a specialist in Phoenix for a major spinal surgery in 2018; giving them sewing machines, computers and other devices; the women are all excellent seamstresses, and they made items we sold here in our Boutique. During the Pandemic, Razieh made over 200 masks, which were sold here. When they were able to buy a new home, in addition to money parishioners gave to purchase items for the house, more furniture was donated and we arranged for two trucks to deliver it. Also, ceiling fans were donated and installed in five rooms and a drip system installed in their backyard. All of this was received with much humility and appreciation by the family.

All the daughters have worked really hard from the beginning; only Fatima whose spinal surgery was successful in saving her life, is unable to work, but she assists Marzia with her sewing business at home. Soghra has worked many long hours at a hospital while taking

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Social Activities Spring Events

The Social Activities Team (SAT) is planning some fun activities this May. Come join us at Coffee Hour on Cinco de Mayo (Sunday May 5) for a taste of Mexico. Some cookies and salsa and chips to go along with your coffee. Help us celebrate.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, join us for a Pentecost Potluck. Everyone is invited. We'll provide the sandwiches and we're hoping that many of you will sign up to bring a salad or dessert which you can drop off in the Parish Hall on your way to church that morning. Come join us as we all celebrate The Day of Pentecost. Signing up for food donations will begin on Sunday, April 28, in the Parish Hall after services.

During the summer, we'll be having our Movie Potluck suppers on Friday, June 28, Friday, July 26, and Friday, August 30. Watch for more information.

If you'd like to help out with any of our activities, or like to recommend a movie, contact, Tisha Stril at tishastril@gmail.com or Julie Reppenhagen at jrepp@snet.net. SAT looks forward to seeing you all.

Kino Border Initiative

Mexico border officials have asked for donations of hygiene products. Migrants are often deported with only the clothes on their backs. Please donate motel free items such as shampoo, soap, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Look for the KINO box in the Donations Room.

If you would like to provide more help to folks in need at the border, please drop some clean, reusable grocery bags in the KINO box in the Donations room. These, and purchased Dollar store bags like them, will be put to good use by people heading home in Mexico from Nogales who have no suitcase or backpack. The bags are greatly appreciated by those who've received them.

Senior Warden's Thoughts

We had a very fruitful and busy Lent and Holy Week and now are heading for quieter times. Thanks to all of you for your tireless efforts -the Altar Guild, Altar Party, Music Ministry, Social Activities Committee and sextons. The Good Friday service with the procession of the cross by the Daughters of the King was especially meaningful and moving. Don't know how Fr. Warren managed it all, especially since he was leading four discussion groups the entire time. Bless you all for your dedication.

Our parish is somewhat unique in that we are in a retirement community and therefore have a good number of parishioners who have mobility or health problems that make it hard for them to attend church. Pre-COVID we were blessed with three or four deacons that were able to pastorally minister to them. We are looking at how we can reestablish a way of connecting with them, and are calling them to get their input. It will most likely mean that we need lay involvement, and I want you to search your heart to see if this may be one thing God is calling you to do. You are Franciscans, after all, and your heart is in the right place.

Gary LaBarre, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Notes

The Bylaws are coming along.

The Church Tower Stained-Glass panes have been repaired and replaced.

The Parish Hall restroom renovation is coming along. The toilet has arrived, the 36-inch door is here. The sink is on the way. We still need a donation(s) of about \$250 for the floor tiling. More trees are being planted in the back parking lot.

The 7 crosses around the courtyard need refurbishing. (Jerusalem, San Damiano, St. Benedict, Calvary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Trinity and Celtic)

They need plaques that memorializes the person(s) or event(s) and some touchup paint.

James Ratley, Junior Warden

Hearts & Hands Imago Dei Graduation

SAVE THE DATE!

Graduation for 20 Imago Dei scholars is set for Friday, May 17th at Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Avenue in Tucson. The exact time will be announced later. You are cordially invited to attend as "honorary grandparents!" To celebrate the accomplishments of these 20 scholars, please consider giving a donation to the fund to purchase \$100 Visa gift cards for the graduating scholars, a gift which has been the tradition at St. Francis in the Valley since 2011. A donation of any amount is greatly appreciated. Please make your check payable to St. Francis, with the notation "Imago Dei Graduation Gift" on the memo line. You may put your check in the offering plate, mail it to the church, deliver it to the parish office, or stop by the Imago Dei table at Coffee Hour on Sundays, May 5 or 12. Please contact Barbara Bundy (571-332-8713, bjbundy@verizon.net) for more information.

Music Groups at St. Francis

Our Parish Choir and Handbell Ensemble have been disbanded for the summer, but we look forward to seeing all our dedicated members again come fall—look for rehearsals to begin again in late September. The Saturday music group continues through the summer months; contact them directly for more information. New members are always welcome in all our ensembles. Our music programs contribute directly to the liturgical life of the Parish—please consider becoming a member.

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharistic celebrations are scheduled for May 11 and June 8 at 4 PM in the Parish Hall.

Prayer Chain

For Prayer Chain requests contact Jim Ratley at 253-365-5093 or, via email, at jnrats@gmail.com.

How to find a book

in the Parish Library collection

Did you know you can search for a book in the Parish Library through your computer at home? Here's how. Go to the Parish website (www.stfrancisgvaz.org), click on the option on the RIGHT side labeled EDUCATION, followed by clicking on the option LIBRARY. You are now on the LIBRARY Home Page. Scroll down to INSTRUCTIONS and click on LIBRARY search link where you will find all of the books in the collection. You can search for a particular book by Title, Author or Subject by using the box on the top upper left side of the page. Also, read the book titles scrolling across the bottom of the screen to find the latest additions. When you find what you want, make an informational note of it including your name, phone number, and the title and author of the book. Come in or call the office with your request. The library staff will take care of finding your request and notifying you when it will be available. Our collection includes many types of religious books, non-religious and novels.

Joyce Davison, Parish Librarian

Parish Offices will be closed...

Memorial Day

Monday, 27 May

2¢ from your Treasurer

Thank you to those attending the "Time with the Treasurer" meeting on April 16. Hopefully you found value in the data that was shared and possibly are in a more well informed position as we as a Parish work through the task of "Reimagining St. Francis." The fiscal health of St. Francis is of critical importance and being well informed is certainly a necessary part of that... especially as we go about creating our "Vision" for the future. While it is disappointing that there were so few in attendance at this meeting, I am grateful for the sharing of ideas and the candid discussions, and I am encouraged by your commitment to St. Francis and desire to improve our financial position. It is, the parishioners, that make St. Francis the wonderful parish it is and your input, your concerns, your questions, are what it takes to insure this parish can continue to function and act as "Christ's Heart and Hands in the World". And most certainly, in order to do so is contingent upon St. Francis becoming financially able to support our worship offerings and fulfill our mission. I encourage all parishioners to provide input and support to the "St. Francis Reimagined" efforts.

Gloria Cadwalader, Parish Treasurer

Shopping In the Boutique

St. Francis' Boutique volunteers work diligently throughout the year to bring you quality merchandise at bargain prices. And it's such an easy-to-shop option because it is open every Sunday after the 9 o'clock service. In addition to seasonal gifts, we offer beautiful, unique jewelry and accessories, artistic items made by our own St. Francis parishioners, St. Francis of Assisi statuary, Anglican Rosary Beads, and crosses in all shapes and sizes. To continue to be a viable St. Francis mission, your support is critical because whatever profit is made at the end of the calendar year goes directly to the Rector's Discretionary Fund to assist the needy in our Green Valley community. The Boutique is open September to the end of May, so before we close, please consider shopping with us for those gifts you might need over the summer months for the special people in your life. It's got to make you feel good to know that when you find those items in the Boutique, you are also helping the needy in the Green Valley community. Isn't that just about perfect? We think so. Please, come shop with us. *Jylene Wright*

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Stewart McKendry
- 2 – Kim Moss
- 3 – Judy Craig
- 3 – Janet Ohri
- 3 – Bonnie Selcho
- 4 – Marcia Allison
- 4 – Carol Berg
- 4 – Reg Kahrimanis
- 5 – Joseph Chidester
- 5 – Bruce Folkers
- 7 – George Grove
- 10 – Olivia Mastandrea
- 11 – Caylee Malone
- 12 – Kim DeMarco
- 12 – Carmen Figueroa
- 13 – Joyce Kaminski
- 13 – Harry Lyons
- 14 – Kelly Smith
- 16 – Carolyn Gates
- 16 – Dorothy North
- 16 – Judy Richards
- 17 – Henry Ramirez
- 18 – Joan Henley
- 19 – Joyce Davison
- 19 – Jennifer Skelton
- 21 – Don Misner
- 22 – Robert Thornby
- 23 – Shoo Adams
- 23 – Mary Ellen Benarth
- 23 – Gail Haight
- 24 – Carolyn Carter
- 26 – Julie Reppenhagen
- 27 – Janet Graff
- 27 – Carol Lyons
- 28 – Terri Chavez
- 28 – Bill Wells
- 30 – Nancy Secaur

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 - Jesse & Carmen Figueroa
- 5 - Gary & Pam Chambers
- 17 - James & Pamela Barnes
- 17 - Andrea Paredes & Ellie Paredes-Garcia
- 19 - Julie & Ken Breitenbucher
- 24 - Mark & Sandy Eckstein

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Linda Pantoja

- 3 – Jack Gardner
- 3 – Carolyn Moorehead
- 4 – Christopher Green
- 4 – William Symons
- 5 – George Schappach
- 8 – Marie Miller
- 9 – Barbara Adams
- 9 – Joe Turberg
- 12 – Eileen Vella
- 13 – Nancy Symons
- 15 – Craig Reid
- 17 – Christina Moehring
- 19 – Sharon Faletti
- 19 – Victor Stevens-Rosenberg
- 19 – Ben Travis
- 20 – Bernie Ravenelle
- 20 – Erik Ringkjøb
- 20 – Lou Terry
- 23 – Jan Gaylord
- 24 – Roger Hinterthuer
- 25 – Tom Cadwalader
- 26 – Mike Gaydos
- 26 – Mona Kiefer
- 27 – Anne Charter
- 27 – Wendy Hill
- 27 – Donna Sheridan
- 27 – Robert Tenney
- 28 – Bob Ogus
- 28 – Al Quick
- 29 – Susan Davis
- 29 – Carol Vleck

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Lou Terry & George Grove
- 2 - William & Diane Holt
- 4 - Joe & Rae Turberg
- 5 - James & Sophie Luffman
- 5 - Sam & Christina Moehring
- 6 - Ken & Sib Barratt
- 8 - Jim & Judy Bush
- 18 - Fred & Kathleen Keller
- 23 - Eloy & Justine Saavedra
- 24 - Greg & Kim Moss
- 26 - John & Karen Packer
- 26 - Robert & Susan Tenney
- 30 - Lucy & Kenneth Nielson



PARISH GROUP MEETINGS

Altar Guild: meetings called as necessary

Border Ministry: meeting called as necessary

Daughters of the King: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 9:45 AM in the Vulliamy Room

Finance Committee: meetings called as necessary

Green Team: meetings called as necessary

Handbell Ensemble: Mondays, 10 AM in the Choir Loft

Hearts & Hands (Outreach): 3rd Monday, 10 AM in the Conference Room

Library Committee: 4th Tuesday, 1 PM in the Library

Memorials and Special

Gifts: 2nd Wednesday, 10 AM in the St. Francis Room

Men's Group: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 9 AM in the Conference Room

Parish Choir: Thursdays, 2 PM in the Choir Loft

Prison Ministry: meetings called as necessary

Saints Francis Trust: meetings called as necessary

Social Activities Team: 4th Monday, 2:30 PM in the Conference Room

Stephen Ministry: meetings called as necessary

Stewardship Committee: meetings called as necessary

Vestry: 1st Tuesday, 4 PM in the Conference Room

Parish meetings and events are listed in the announcements section of Sunday service leaflets and, via email, in NEWS FROM THE PEWS. If you would like to be added to the email list, contact Finance Officer Deborah Harby (deborah@stfrancisgvaz.org) 520-625-1370.

classes at Pima Community College to become a Phlebotomist, and is currently doing that full time at a hospital. Marzia is working as a seamstress at two locations as well as running a sewing business from home. And Razieh works weekends at a retirement residence.

They all say that one of the happiest days of their lives was May 20, 2022, when they all became US citizens. And David and I say, meeting them was one of the best things that ever happened in our lives!

Jylene Wright

Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for May, June, and July 2024 are available in the Parish Office during the week, and on Sunday mornings you can find them in the Parish Hall.



A Gift of Flowers

If you would like to give a gift of flowers to be placed on the High Altar in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for many blessings, please call Carol Berg at 520-373-5770 and let her know of your interest. If she is not at home, just leave a message with your name and phone number and she will return your call. Flower donation is \$35.

2023 Parish Statistics

Baptisms

0

Transfers In

0

Deaths

Louise Hursh
Dick Kosnick
Joan Henley
Vince Remillard
Norma Pool
Charles Gardner



La Joya Communion Service

A reminder to all residents of La Posada that we offer a weekly Service in the Celebration Room at La Joya. Gary La-Barre leads a weekly service of communion from the reserved sacrament. One of the clergy leads a service of Holy Eucharist once a month, usually the second Wednesday. You are welcome to attend even if you're not a La Posada resident.

Video Reflections

Fr. Warren provides short weekly Psalm video reflections. They are updated Thursdays on Facebook and YouTube. Past videos back to March 2020 are also available.

RESERVING

MEETING TIME AND SPACE AT SAINT FRANCIS

Individuals wishing to reserve meeting space at St. Francis and/or discuss room set-ups should make those arrangements through Office Manager Deborah Harby. It is **essential** your meeting be logged into the Master Calendar. If you need it, be sure to ask for 'set-up' and 'clean-up' time as part of your booking.

One week prior to your event please inventory the pantry next to the kitchen and let Deborah know if there are enough supplies to meet your needs. A parishioner usually shops for us twice a month. Thanks for your help and cooperation.

GETTING YOUR EVENT INTO

PARISH PUBLICATIONS

Sunday Bulletin notices should be sent via email to the COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE by NOON the Tuesday prior to the Sunday you wish the notice to appear. Notices should be in written form and sent via email whenever possible.

Franciscan Staff material should be sent via email to the COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE NO LATER THAN the 10th of the month preceding publication.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please let us know if your e-mail address, street address, zip code or telephone number changes. Get in touch with Deborah Harby in the Parish Financial Office to update your information for our records.

ST. FRANCIS-IN-THE-VALLEY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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