



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. 60, No. 2

February, 2023

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

Words From Warren . . .

For those who were unable to attend the Annual Meeting on January 29, below is a portion of my *Report/Charge to Vestry:

February is a transition month in which we move from the Christmas and New Year's celebrations, through the season of Epiphany, to Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent with its journey to the Cross and Easter.

Up in the Northern States and in Canada, February tends to be a cold dark month when people are waiting for spring with great anticipation. It is a transition month between winter and spring.

*Life is full of transitions. We move from our family home to college or university, or from home to a job in a new city or town. Military families know what it means to move around, as do clergy. Excitement and anxiety all wrapped up together.

Transitions bring with them much anticipation, but anything with change can stir up concerns. Even happy times such as getting married or expecting a baby are times of change and flux that can create anxiety.

Covid19 still rears its ugly head. Two of my sisters and their families recently had Covid19, as have several parishioners, but thankfully most who catch it today get through it without serious problems. We continue to move through the pandemic.

Covid19 has changed the way we do church and gather socially. We are left with an invisible scar reminding us of three difficult years that dealt with isolation, illness and even the death of friends and family.

We continue to be in a time of transition at St. Francis in the Valley. We have a smaller staff and only one priest to serve all the worship and pastoral needs of the parish. Thankfully, we have two wonderful deacons, Becky Williamson and Linda Hutson, and retired priests Judy Turberg, Ted Holt and Tom Neyland who help out and support our parish.

Activities have changed the last three years. Big events like the Tour of Homes may never return. So what can replace it to highlight our church in Green Valley and bring in money to support our ministries? What new and exciting projects can we start?

Worship is still in a time of transition. We have one service on a Sunday as a result of Covid19. However, as more people come forward to be Greeters, Ushers, Lectors, Acolytes, Altar Guild, and Audio Visual team members, we may eventually return to two services.

One positive change due to Covid19 is our Live streaming on YouTube. It helps us reach out to many members each week and has also become a way for new people to get to know us. Many have joined our parish because of our online presence.

We are a parish in transition as we continue to grow into the image of St. Francis of Assisi

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Words From Warren, continued

by learning about Franciscan values and using those values as a way to measure what we do and believe; In how we welcome others, respect the environment, help people in need, and learn to be prophetic voices in our community and Diocese.

What will this year look like? So far 2023 is looking more like pre-Covid19. The snowbirds are returning in larger numbers. Sunday attendance is increasing as are the activities through the week by parish and user groups. Our building is busy seven days a week.

Transitions will continue as we introduce new social events, study groups, wellness programs such as a Parish Nurse Program and a support group for caregivers of people with dementia called Stress Busters. Other additions will include Creation Care/Green initiatives, and a look at new outreach ministries such as the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and the possibility of an after school children's literacy program for grade three students

Church has changed due to Covid19, yet we are blessed that St. Francis is growing. I believe we will continue to attract more of the retired folk in Green Valley as well as local families seeking baptisms and a church to raise their children. Now is the time to embrace the energy and excitement which will help us will set the pace and direction for the future as we look to our 60th anniversary in 2026.

So what can you do to help? We need you to get involved by bringing your ideas. You can volunteer to help out on Sundays in worship, the coffee time or the boutique. You can join committees or participate in various groups and ministries such as Stephen Ministry, Daughters of the King, Men's Group, Pastoral Visitors, the Choir, Bells and Saturday Worship Team.

All of what goes on at St. Francis in the Valley could not happen without dedicated volunteers, leaders and staff. There are too many names too mention, but I do want to say thank you to Deborah Harby, Gerald Near and Megan McAllister for keeping the office running. I also want to thank all the front desk volunteers for their presence in the office.

A special thank you to our Vestry Officers, Sr. Warden Julie Reppenhagen, Jr. Warden Kristi Menix, Vestry Clerk Bobbi Tucker, and our new Treasurer Gloria Cadwalader. Many thanks to our retired treasurer Erik Rinkjob who oversaw our books for five years!

The Vestry Officers along with our dedicated Vestry members are all volunteers who work on behalf of the par-

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Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

600 South La Cañada Drive, Green Valley AZ 85614

(520) 625-1370 – www.stfrancisgvaz.org

www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz

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

Julie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

Ginny Arundell, Marybeth Bates, Barbara Bundy,

Joyce Davison, Glenn Matto,

Vince Remillard, Cheryl Tardy-Albin

ex officio: Gloria Cadwalader, Treasurer

Bobbi Tucker, Clerk

CHURCH STAFF

Gerald Near

Parish Administrator

Deborah Harby

Financial Officer

Megan McAllister

Financial Assistant

Gerald Near

Director of Music

J. Michael Case

Organist

Sharlyn Matthews

Director Emeritus, Handbell Ensemble

Sophia Witte

Handbell Ensemble Director

Matthew Harby

Lead Sexton

Nathaniel Martinez

Sexton

*The mission of St. Francis in the Valley,
Green Valley, is to live as Christ's heart and hands
in the world.*

ish. The responsibility can feel daunting at times, but they continue to strive and work hard for our parish. I hope you will take time to say thank you to them for all they do for St. Francis.

We all want to have a healthy and successful church. To achieve that we need to staff it appropriately, and to provide the worship and programs you have come to enjoy. To ensure our future continues to be strong and healthy, we need everyone to financially support our church. We cannot continue to use our savings every year to cover the shortfall in the budget.

The upcoming season of Lent is a time to reflect on your relationship with Jesus, but is also a time to reflect on how you are going to help the church you love move forward in this time of transition.

Fr. Warren

A Pre-Lenten Lollapalooza

Traditionally, the weeks before Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent are spent cleansing the house of all fats, sugar, sweets—all the good stuff—culminating in a traditional pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday. That tradition lives on here at St. Francis in 2023; but in addition to the pancake supper, the Social Activities Team wants to help you clear your home of all those wonderfully sinful sweets while showing off your baking (or buying) skill and having a good time doing it—with a lollapalooza of a DESSERT PARTY.

The date is Friday, February 17, the time is 5:30 PM and the place is the Parish Hall. The price of admission is your very best dessert to share. And while we're all enjoying our last bites of sweet stuff for 40 days, we will be entertained and challenged by a Bible trivia contest with fabulous prizes (if we can find any lying around.)

You are asked to let us know that you will be coming by adding your name to the growing list in the Parish Hall after Sunday services. And while you're adding your name to that list, you will probably want to sign up for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 21, and the Lenten Program soup and salad suppers which begin on Wednesday, March 1.

We don't want to be pushy, but you might want to write down these dates now before your calendar fills up.

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LOLLAPALOOZA DESSERT PARTY

Friday, February 17, 5:30 PM

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 21, 5 PM

LENTEN PROGRAM SOUP AND SALAD SUPPERS
Wednesdays, March 1 through March 29, 5 PM

Hearts & Hands

The February project for Hearts and Hands is PAWS PATROL, in honor of the church's legacy from St. Francis of Assisi, famous for his love of animals. PAWS PATROL has a special program called TNR for feral and stray cats: Trap, Neuter and Release. From February 1 through the February 28, the church will be accepting contributions for PAWS PATROL. If you would like to donate please make your check payable to St. Francis in the Valley with a notation that it is for PAWS PATROL. There will be designated envelopes in the pews during February.

There is more information on the PAWS PATROL website. If you have questions, contact Sue Girardeau (520-648-7969).

Franciscan Focus

Spirituality, compassion, care for creation, peace and justice. These are all Franciscan values before us. Are they separate topics? What are we supposed to do with them? What if they were all one reality? What if they are inviting us not only to be, but to become and serve that reality?

For spirituality is about the oneness of everything. God and creation flow with Love. Compassion is feeling the pain of others and doing something about it. Care for creation is honoring the preciousness of everything God made. Peace and justice mean everyone, no exceptions, lives in a harmony of respected relationships. No one has too much and no one has too little. The values are One, like facets of a diamond. We are all connected through God's flowing Love. *We are created to be and do what God does. That's the challenge of being and serving as Franciscans.* *Fr. Tom Neyland*

Parish Offices will be closed...

Presidents' Day

Monday, February 20

Senior Warden's Thoughts

Happy February. We start the month with a reinvigorated Social Activities Team with Tisha Stril, Lou Terry, and Rev. Judy Turberg leading the team along with a little help from the Senior Warden. SAT is always looking for suggestions on activities to sponsor. And we especially like folks to offer their help, even if it's for just one event. Contact Julie Reppenhagen (*jrepp@snet.net*) if you'd like to share your talents with the Social Activities Team of St. Francis.

Watch for these events coming up: Tuesday February 21 is the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. In March we have the Lenten Suppers Series, with soup and a salad and a speaker, happening every Wednesday in March. Stations of the Cross are at 5 PM followed by dinner and a speaker.

Your clergy and Vestry will be having a one-day retreat at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in north Tucson on February 9. The theme of the Retreat will be *Forgiveness and Peace*. It will be run by an outside facilitator and include time for prayer, meditation, and group sessions. It will be a time of renewal for everyone. Keep us in prayer.

Did you know that a National Day of Service called "Random Acts of Kindness" falls on Friday, February 17? It's a great time to practice doing something nice for someone, even a stranger: open a door, sweep a sidewalk, smile at a stranger. After a little practice, you'll get even better at being an even more caring person of God.

Jullie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Notes

1. The Parish has hired a full-time Lead Sexton, Matthew Harby (32 hours + on call), and a part-time Seasonal Sexton, Nathaniel Martinez (10 - 12 hours, October - May). Please welcome Matthew and Nathaniel.

2. A special thank you to Craig Reid and Roger Hinterthuer, both dedicated parishioners and volunteers, and to many others for assisting temporarily with many of the usual sexton duties.

3. A local locksmith in the community is reworking the lock mechanism of the main entrance door into the Parish Hall.

4. Update on solving inefficient heating and cooling in choir loft: the problem is not leaking refrigerant, as earlier reported, After doing a systematic

and meticulous assessment of the entire system, the recommendation is the repair of several components. This repair work will be done in mid-January.

5. The deteriorated metal, floral fountain at the east entrance to the Courtyard will be removed soon. Tentatively, another fountain will be installed. The memorial plaque/small boulder will remain.

5. By January 15 donations toward the purchase of latching wrought iron gates for the entrances to the Courtyard have reached \$2920 (50% + of the cost); \$5400 is needed. Thank you to all who have donated so far. All donations are appreciated. The gates are designed to provide barriers to roving, destructive, and sometimes aggressive herds of javelina that frequently enter the Courtyard. For more information, please see the poster on the easel in the Parish Hall or contact Kristi Menix, Junior Warden or Father Warren, Rector.

6. Craig Reid and Reg Kahrimanis are coordinating teams of volunteer parishioners to continue establishing functional rock beds as well as improving the water collection pit in the northeast corner of the property. Completion of the trimming overgrown trees and shrubs is ongoing. Craig has applied pre-emergent to select ground areas for weed control. And, the necessary rain came on January 16 and continues as this is submitted for February publication! Thank you to all dedicated ground volunteers. Everything is looking great! Welcome Jon and Susan Burch, Harvey Eaves, Steve Huhta, and Susan Davis to the ground team.

7. To promote the safety of clergy and others who serve around the stairs of the altar area, another set of metal handrails is being considered. Stay tuned.

Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

Scheduling At St. Francis

Ours is a busy place. Consider the following: in 2022 St. Francis saw 424 twelve-step group meetings. (2022 was a year still of recovery, i.e. not all such groups had returned to their full schedule of meetings.) Apart from twelve-step meetings we hosted 102 meetings of non-parish groups which met weekly or monthly. Add to all this 77 parish or parish-sponsored events and, again, ours is a busy place. Non-parish groups are required to fill out a form requesting meeting time and space; the information is then entered into our digital Master Calendar—a necessary bit of data entry that pre-

continued next column

cludes the chaos of double-bookings (a recurrent nightmare).

Making our facilities available to the community is a long-standing and beneficial parish policy—beneficial for all concerned—which reflects the intent of our mission statement. But the ‘down side’—if there is one—is that parish groups too must formally request the use of time and space in parish facilities. The calendar (which looks unfortunately like Gerald) must be consulted before announcing a meeting or scheduling an event. And in all fairness we cannot expect outside groups to simply step aside to accommodate our wishes after we have promised them the use of time and space in our facilities (they also pay us—as best they can—for the chance to meet here at St. Francis).

If you are responsible for scheduling a parish event or meeting, please remember that the first link in the chain is to consult the calendar (that’s Gerald) and to, yes, fill out a request form. You can reach him via email at gerald@stfranciscgvaz.org

Gratitude in Giving

TREASURER’S UPDATE

Happy New Year “2023”

The Financial Plan (Budget) for 2023 has been approved by the Vestry and was presented to the Parish at the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2023 in the Parish Hall following the Sunday Service.

The Rector, Vestry, and Leadership Team are filled with Gratitude and sincerely thank each of you for your response to the “Stewardship—Gratitude in Giving Campaign.” Your commitment of your personal Time, Talent, and Treasure is what enables St. Francis in the Valley to flourish and extend “Our Hearts and Hands” to those in need throughout the world.

While it is going to be a very challenging time financially for St. Francis in the Valley this coming year, the desire to do “God’s work” will certainly lead us to resolving our deficit budget issues without sacrificing our mission “to live as Christ’s heart and hands in the world.” Please know that though the official campaign is concluding; you can, at any time, make a most welcomed commitment of your Time, Talent, and Treasure. You may do so by going to the website, contacting any of the Vestry Members, Rector, or stopping by the financial office.

Gloria Cadwalader, Parish Treasurer

Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for February, March and April (2023) are available in the Parish Office during the week, and on Sunday mornings you can find them in the Parish Hall as well as the Office.

Handbell Ensemble

Our Handbell Ensemble will again be rehearsing in the Choir Loft on Mondays at 10 AM and new members are welcome. If you can count to four and maintain a steady beat, you’re in! Just contact Sophia Witte by text at 520-509-5037 or

Parish Choir

The St. Francis Parish Choir is back in session. Rehearsals are held at 2 PM on Thursdays in the Choir Loft. New members are always welcome and needed in all sections of the choir. Get in touch with the Choirmaster at gerald@stfranciscgvaz.org and let him know of your interest.

How to Access Service Videos

Go to the Parish website (www.stfranciscgvaz.org), scroll down to the bottom of the page where you will see the current video, click on the arrow ▶ to start the video, and enjoy!

Exciting news—

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART ART SHOW is coming to St. Francis in the Valley in February. This art is created by current and former inmates at Perryville Prison. The art pieces will be available for purchase.

PRISON MINISTRY is in need of volunteers to greet members of the community who come to view the show. The show is open for 20 days in February. So there are lots of opportunities to both support and promote the talented women in Perryville, Episcopal Prison Ministries and St. Francis to the community.

The show is open Monday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9 AM to 12 PM. We hope you will lend a hand to this fabulous event. *Rena Robbins*

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Margaret Murphy
- 2 Alice Walker
- 3 Tony Mariscal
- 4 Patty Russell
- 5 Theresa Bonser
- 5 Fred Junggren
- 5 Barry Sheridan
- 6 Joyce Hayes
- 6 Jenica Hisko
- 6 Sharlyn Matthews
- 7 Joyce Remillard
- 7 Wilfrid Wiemer
- 8 Frances Gordon
- 8 Margaret Hennel
- 8 John Packer
- 10 Diane Schwarzmann
- 11 Ken Breitenbucher
- 11 Pris Junggren
- 12 Arlene Stremming
- 14 Roger Ward
- 16 Kathleen Keller
- 18 Bonnie Kleeberg
- 18 Norma Pool
- 19 Jeannie North
- 20 Nancy Allen
- 20 Victor Chavez
- 20 Janis Gallagher
- 20 Joan Jakubiak
- 21 Charles Gardner
- 22 Steve Hickman
- 22 Shirley Law
- 22 Keith Workman
- 25 Lee Cornelison
- 25 Helen Mullaly

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Arnie Berglund & Darlene Gregory
- 4 Jack & Barbara Bundy
- 4 Victor & Terri Chavez
- 13 Mitch & Pat Ghoca
- 14 Tom & Gloria Cadwalader
- 16 Bruce Folkers & Jan Gaylord

Say Hello to... Andrea Paredes & Ellie Garcia



We moved here six years ago from California to start a new beginning. Both of us were born and raised there. We had no idea for how long we'd stay, or even if we'd like it here but we found our true happiness here. Andrea's career is in Nogales, and mine in Tucson, and we're almost ready for retirement. We knew we needed a closer relationship with God and tried other churches and never felt truly accepted the way we have been here at St. Francis. We're hoping to spend more time in church involvement as we're coming closer to our retirement.

Prayer Chain

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

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharist is scheduled for February 11 at 4 PM in the Parish Hall.

Do we have...

your@e-mail.address?

PARISH MEETINGS AND EVENTS — FEBRUARY 2023

Wednesday, 1 February

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
Kuzmak Memorial, 11 AM

Thursday, 2 February

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Monday, 6 February

Handbells, 10 AM, Loft

Wednesday, 8 February

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR

Memorials Cmte, 10 AM, SFR
'Messiah' videos, 10:30 AM, PH

Thursday, 9 February

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Saturday, 11 February

Holy Eucharist, 4 PM, PH

Monday, 13 February

Handbells, 10 AM, Loft

Tuesday, 14 February

Grounds Luncheon, 10 AM, VR
Stephen Ministry Retreat,
10:30 AM, Parish Hall

Wednesday, 15 February

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
'Messiah' videos, 10:30 AM, PH

Thursday, 16 February

Library Committee, 1 PM, L
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Friday, 17 February

Dessert Party, 5:30 PM, PH

Monday, 20 February

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED
Handbells, 10 AM, Loft

Tuesday, 21 February

Pancake Supper, 5 PM, PH

ASH WEDNESDAY, 22 February

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR

Ash Wednesday Liturgy, 7 PM

Thursday, 23 February

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Monday, 27 February
Handbells, 10 AM, Loft

CALENDAR LEGEND

- PH - Parish Hall
- VR - Vulliamy Room
- CfR - Conference Room
- SFR - Saint Francis Room
- L - Library

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 LaBarre 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.

Arizona
Episcopalian
Magazine

The AZ Episcopalian magazine is now available online. The current issue has a variety of articles showcasing all the great things going on around the Diocese. If you would rather receive it by mail—or to sign up to receive it online—contact Deborah (Finance Officer) through the Parish Office (520-625-1370 or deborah@stfrancisgvaz.org) to sign up. It's FREE!



2023 Parish Statistics

Baptisms

Billy Paul Smith
Angel Vincent Gamon

Transfers In

Ralph & Alice Walker

New Members by

Confirmation or Reception

o

Transfers Out

o

Deaths

o

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



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 Parish Administrator Gerald Near. 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 Gerald 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 given to the Parish Administrator 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 given to the Parish Administrator 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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