



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

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April 2020

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

From our Interim Rector . . .

SOCIALLY SEPARATED, EMOTIONALLY CLOSE

We've never been through a crisis of this magnitude in our lifetimes. WWII was 'over there' but this is **'right here.'** As identified cases of Coronavirus multiply now across the state, and are also here among us now in Green Valley, self-isolating and socially separating and good hygiene will be even more important in the weeks ahead of us—hard to maintain, when we are afflicted by loneliness, but more important than ever to sustain our best practices.

Here at St. Francis, while we can hold no public worship services or meetings, and our offices are closed, we can still be the church! I am still available for pastoral care; contact me directly at my cell number: **626-824-0270**. Deacon Becky Williamson is available when I am away from the office. You can call the church office **520-625-1370** to leave a message for any of the church staff, who continue to do their jobs remotely. We will continue to publish and mail the monthly newsletter, and NEWS FROM THE PEWS will go out by email at least once a week. If you aren't receiving the NEWS on your computer, send your email address now to Beth-el Klein: bethel@stfranciscgvaz.org

Sunday the 22nd, while you watched St. Francis' worship service on video from the comfort of your home, Sylvia and I sat in church, in case anyone who hadn't heard of the church closure might show up. It was a meditative time for us, with spring birds chirping in the patio.

Nobody wandered in by mistake all Sunday morning long—which is a tribute to **Beth-el Klein**, who mailed out our letter announcing the closure (and who sent NEWS FROM THE PEWS as a reminder); to Neal Hursh, who taught himself how to create our worship video and to link it to St. Francis' web page; and to our **TeleCare volunteers** who phoned a number of members who don't receive electronic mail. Our thanks to you, Beth-el, Neal and TeleCare Callers! Did I say that I am looking for another volunteer to fill out our calling team? Can you help? I'd love to hear from you!

We of St. Francis will stay emotionally close by all our efforts at communication, even while we practice social separation for the health of everyone. And we already look forward to that great day when we will all gather here together to proclaim, **'Surely the Lord is in this place. Come, let us adore him!'**

In Christ's love,

Fr. Colville

Senior Warden's Notes

FR. WARREN'S VISA APPLICATION UPDATE

It's been awhile since you have had an update on the status of Fr. Warren's visa application. I would like to say we have seen some progress, but apparently there is nothing to report except that his application is in the "process and review" stage.

Our most recent communication with our legal counsel, Maurice Goldman, toward the end of March, indicated that Fr. Warren's visa application (petition) still needed a site check, and to my knowledge U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) still has to perform a site visit in order to certify that St. Francis is an actual established church.

This whole process is orchestrated out of the Immigration Service's California Service Center (CSC) which is reported to be "currently experiencing a high volume of submissions" and in a best-case scenario, Fr. Warren's application will be reviewed in approximately 2 months, after which his petition would be placed in the site visit queue to be acted on sometime between 6-8 weeks. Using this information, one could easily expect Fr. Warren's visa application/petition to be approved sometime in July, or June at the very earliest.

However, we might anticipate that the Coronavirus crisis will undoubtedly impact the application process. Meanwhile, every effort will be made to make you aware of the current situation, and any significant changes to the anticipated timeline. Fr. Warren's previous plans to visit St. Francis for a week or so in each of the coming months will now have to be dependent on the current virus crisis.

Keep the process in your prayers and remember that patience is a virtue to be practiced each and every day.

Wayne North, Senior Warden

A Prayer for the Present Moment

St. Francis parishioner Charlie Gardner writes, "Our daughter in Fort Worth found this prayer from the Church of New Zealand Prayer Book...seems especially apropos for the days we are experiencing."

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and soothes the frantic heart;
bring hope and courage to us
as we wait in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make us the equal
of whatever lies ahead.
Bring us courage to endure
what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you. Amen

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Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

600 South La Cañada Drive

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

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THE RT. REV. JENNIFER REDDALL,

Bishop

THE REV. CANON COLVILLE SMYTHE

Interim Rector

The Rev. Becky Williamson

Deacon

THE VESTRY

Wayne North, Senior Warden;

Julie Reppenhagen, Junior Warden;

Mary Beth Bates, Bill Baucom, Sandy Eckstein,

Kristi Menix, Orji Isiogu, Sandy Russell,

Cheryl Tardy-Albin, Helen Mullaly, Jenica Hisko,

ex officio: Erik Ringkjøb, Treasurer;

Bobbi Tucker, Clerk

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Gerald Near

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Organist

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Sophia Witte

Handbell Ensemble Director

John Colip

Head Sexton

Susan Whitney, Henry Ramirez,

Clyde Tardy

Assistant Sextons

The mission of

St. Francis in the Valley, Green Valley,

is to live as Christ's heart and hands

in the world.

Become an Honorary Grandparent

Dear Parishioners,

I would normally be bringing this announcement to you verbally during Sunday services, so for the time being please read the following and respond at your earliest convenience...

I would like to personally invite each member of St. Francis to participate once again in our partnership ministry with the Imago Dei Middle School in Tucson. The school, one of five schools operating under the umbrella of the Arizona Episcopal Schools Foundation, operates with grades five through eight, 5½ days a week, 11 months a year. The curriculum is specifically designed to help bring students, many who may be a year or two behind their peers when they begin as a fifth grade scholar, up to that expected for their appropriate age level by the time they graduate from eighth grade.

Most often, English is not even a second language in their homes, and often the family has a single parent. Nearly all families involved are at poverty level or below.

All things considered these young scholars certainly deserve special recognition for the four years of impressive academic achievement they worked so hard for.

The families are proud of their student's accomplishments and we should be as well. Our goal this year is to raise through contributions from you, our parish members, \$2,000 to give us the opportunity to provide each of the twenty eighth grade graduating scholars a \$100 Visa Gift Card in recognition of their academic achievements. Make your checks payable to St. Francis, with the notation Imago Dei Middle School on the memo line and drop off or mail to the Parish Office.

Graduation is set for Thursday afternoon, 21 May, in Tucson, and we will have more details soon as to the specific location of the commencement exercises. We hope to see you there as honorary grandparents! In recent years, we've had as many as three dozen parishioners attending graduation, and this year I'd love to see that number grow to four or even five dozen attending as Honorary Grandparents.

I thank you for reading and responding to my invitation to share in this most worthwhile and gratifying ministry. Should you have questions please give me a call at (715) 205-8374.

Thank you.

Wayne North

Orji Isiogu to serve...

St. Francis is proud to announce the recent election of Orji Isiogu to the Imago Dei Middle School's Board of Directors. Orji currently serves as a member of the St. Francis Vestry, and is active in several ministries as well, including the recent Rector Search Committee.

Imago Dei Middle School was founded in 2005 by The Rev. Susan Anderson-Smith and The Rev. Anne Sawyer to address inequality of educational and life opportunities for low-income children in Tucson. St. Francis and the school are nearing the completion of eight years in a cooperative partnership. Orji is the fourth member of our parish to have the honor of serving on the Imago Dei Middle School's Board of Directors.

Please Note...

The previously announced charter bus trip to take members of St. Francis to the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix on 16 April, has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

Thanks from our Treasurer

We so appreciate all of you who are careful to keep your pledge paid up, and you who send in gifts. You who pledge and give regularly are St. Francis' life blood in all seasons, and never more than during this necessary shut down. While the Church and Parish Offices are closed, when you mail in a pledge or gift—especially if you send cash—be sure to include your name with your gift, so we can give you proper credit for your year-end charitable deduction.

With thanks for your faithful support,

Erik Ringkjøb
Parish Treasurer



St. Francis in the Valley 2020 Tour of Homes

The 2020 Tour of Homes is in the history books and it was a great success. On Friday, March 6 we hosted tours of six beautiful Green Valley homes, ranging in style from simple to ornate. We served our guests delicious goodies in the Parish Hall while they waited for transportation to the homes. We also had a Silent Auction displaying beautiful and unusual treasures for sale. And to top it off, our Gourmet Shoppe was filled with lots of homemade items. It was truly an outstanding event brought off with the help of so many wonderful church and non-church members. Thank you all so much.

At this writing, we have received most of the income and paid most of our expenses and I am proud to report that we have a profit of nearly \$12,500. When the COVID-19 Virus restrictions are over, we will meet with Outreach and determine how to best distribute the profits to help in our community.

A special Thank You to the 2020 Tour of Homes Leadership Team: David Dunn, Chris Arundell, Neal Hursh, Cheryl Tardy-Albin, Paula Altamirano, Mary Beth Bates, Penny Phillip, Marie LeRoy, Carol Vleck, Bob Swendrznski, Ginny Arundell, Mark Eckstein, Sandy Eckstein and Penelope Williams.

Julie Reppenhagen, Chair

The St. Francis in the Valley Trust

The Trust Committee would like to acknowledge the friends of Harry Russell who generously donated to the Trust in his name. Your contribution ensures ongoing financial support to St. Francis, where Harry lived as 'Christ's heart and hands in the world.'

The Trust Committee is in need of someone able to take notes at quarterly meetings the third Thursday in February, May, August and November. The meetings begin at 11 AM. For more information please contact Arlene Stremming at ajstrem@gmail.com

How to Access Service Videos

Go to the Parish website (www.stfrancisgvaz.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!

Ashes to Go

In 2010 members of three Episcopal congregations took to the streets to offer ashes and prayer to people throughout the Chicago area. Over the past ten years this movement has continued to grow in cities throughout the country, and this year the Rev. Judy Turberg brought *Ashes to Go* to Green Valley.

For many people life is so busy that attending a weekday service or even finding a regular church home can be very difficult; but *Ashes to Go* provided an opportunity, within a busy day, for many of our friends and neighbors to participate in a deeply meaningful tradition. On this past windy Ash Wednesday, the Rev. Judy Turberg and Deacon Becky Williamson imposed ashes in the semi-circular drive in front of St. Francis while the Daughters of the King provided information about our church to 43 members of the Green Valley/Sahuarita community (44 if you count Dan Shearer, editor of the Green Valley News, who was so curious after seeing signs posted along La Canada he just had to pull in and find out what we were up to).

Ashes to Go is a new outreach opportunity within our community, and it is an open invitation to participate in Christian life. The event was open to anyone who wished to take part: people of all denominations, or no church affiliation were welcome. Every Sunday we seek opportunities to engage in evangelism, as we are called to do, when following communion we pray, "...now send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ our Lord." (BCP, p.387) and *Ashes to Go* provided such an occasion. Sharing prayer, the recognition of our mortality as ashes are imposed, and demonstrating the internalization of the gospel message through action reveals who we are as a congregation and encourages others to join us in our attempt to follow the example of Jesus as we move through the world. It was a chance to act as Christ's heart and hands in the world.

Sharing Ash Wednesday with members of my church family and then reaching out beyond the walls of St. Francis and inviting others, who would not have had the opportunity otherwise, to share this experience was a truly wonderful way for me to begin my Lenten journey. I was deeply moved, I had a great deal of fun, and I'm already looking forward to next year.

Jeni Hisko

Prayer Chain

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

Clergy Availability

Our St. Francis clergy are still available for pastoral care and calls. Contact Fr. Colville directly at colville@stfrancisgvaz.org or 626-824-0270.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Don Scott
- 1 Sandra Welch
- 2 Mary Challman
- 2 Paige Day
- 3 Kathleen Chidester
- 4 Virginia Pinnell
- 4 Annie Whiteside
- 5 Valerie Von Guttenberg
- 6 Gary Mendoza
- 6 Patty Ryan
- 6 David Vleck
- 7 Mary Levine
- 7 Linda Schnelle
- 8 Russ DeMarco
- 8 Robert Reiersen
- 10 Jack Bundy
- 11 Greg Smith
- 11 Alex Stoffel
- 12 Edith Hawkins
- 13 Christina Hornyman
- 15 Sue Spiewak
- 16 Joe Grabel
- 16 Jackie Springer
- 17 Wayne North
- 18 Shirley Gresham
- 20 Carolyn Andersen
- 21 Jennifer Isiogu
- 23 Alice Haynes
- 23 Lois Weinert
- 24 William McGibbon
- 25 Carol Gaydos
- 27 Fred Keller
- 28 Jill Foerster
- 28 Ann Gritman
- 30 William Gates
- 30 Lois Pittenger

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Craig & Thomasina Reid
- 17 Peter & Margaret Murphy
- 21 Eric & Shirley Gough
- 23 Tom & Charlotte Neyland
- 26 Jerry & Diane McAllister
- 26 William & Patricia Peissig
- 27 Penny Philip & Michael Wilson
- 30 Joseph & Patricia McCarthy

In a Crisis, Think Creatively

Fr. Colville's sermon for March 29

Chinese is a picture language, and one character is a whole idea. One character means 'crisis.' That same character means 'opportunity.' When the stock market plummets, savvy investors tell us, "It's time to buy!" So the Chinese must be a nation of savvy investors. Crisis/Opportunity. A crisis is an opportunity which pushes us to think creatively. I have so much sympathy for the farmer whose whole annual income depended on his potato crop. Just at the beginning of planting season, the sheriff came out and arrested him, and he was sentenced to sixty days in jail.

His wife was furious. She wrote to him, "While you sit in jail, I suppose you expect me to dig up that whole field by myself so I can plant the potatoes. Well, I ain't gonna do it!" From jail, the farmer wrote back, "Don't you dare dig up that field. That's where I hid all the money and the guns."

A week later, he got a letter back from his wife saying, "Somebody at that jail must be reading your mail, because the cops were over here and they dug up the whole field. Now what do I do?" The farmer wrote right back, "Plant the potatoes!"

Crisis/Opportunity. What are we learning in this Coronavirus cri-

sis? Wash your hands! Keep your distance! If you want to be healthy, and live through this crisis, respect illness. Respect death! But also... look for signs of life. Where do we see opportunity? Ever since we received word from the CDC, by way of the Bishop of Arizona, we've been planting potatoes around here just as fast as we can. Here in Green Valley, we have a parish member who volunteers at the Food Bank—so he knows that an increasing number of people who live on the edge...rely on the food bank to get by on their meager allowance. He doesn't want anyone to go hungry! So while he's confined at home this month, and unable to work at the Food Bank, he is contributing extra. And he feels so good about doing it that he doesn't waste energy feeling sorry for himself. He's found an opportunity to be generous, and that opportunity is giving him life at the same time it is enriching life for others.

In the gospel today, Mary and Martha are in a crisis, because Lazarus didn't wash his hands. He was clueless about germs; they all were! He caught a virus. He got sick, and now he has died. When someone we love dies it's always a crisis for us, because with a death we lose part of ourselves. At least, it seems that way because it hurts so terribly to lose someone we have shared life with, someone who has helped us grow, someone who has introduced us to love. And it can take us a long time to realize that all we learned, and all we shared, and all we thought was lost when that person died...is not lost; it stays with us, it becomes part of us as the last, best gift of the one who loved us. That legacy deepens our

capacity to give and receive love; and it is available for us to take into every other relationship we will ever have. Gaining that perspective after a loss helps us turn grief... into thanksgiving.

Jesus feels that loss with the death of his friend Lazarus. Jesus would be quick to say, "Respect death. Feel its sting in the loss of one you love. But in the face of death...think life!" In a crisis, when we are suffering from what we've lost, what generates life? Where are our opportunities? Contributing to the Food Bank gives us an example of sharing and generosity.

Imagination generates life, too. In this Coronavirus crisis, one man who is scrupulously self-isolating found a way to avoid exposing himself to his neighbors when his dog needs to be taken for a walk. He hooks one end of a long leash to the dog's harness; he hooks the other end to a drone. Then while he operates the drone from his trailer, the drone takes the dog for a walk. Wild imagination.

Up to now, I've given examples of individuals being brought to life, and to fuller life. My perspective is influenced by Jesus' raising of one individual: Lazarus. But our first reading today is actually much broader, and much more related to our present miseries in the virus crisis. In 586BC, a date that will live in infamy, the nation of Israel was utterly defeated by their adversaries the Babylonians. It was more than a defeat; it was a scourge with Jerusalem leveled, the Temple destroyed, the survivors marched off into exile 500 miles away in Babylon. Actually, the survivors didn't survive: they died in captivity. This morning, decades later,

Ezekiel is speaking to the offspring of those exiles: children who have grown up in an internment camp, never having known their ancestral homeland, and having little sense of themselves as a people. To these orphans Ezekiel preaches today's vision that God will lift the dry bones of Israel out of their graves, will reconstitute this people—and will bring back to life their spirit as the people of God. It's a dramatic call for a people devastated by the scourge of war to re-engage with life, and with God!

We all must learn to face fears and cope with loss in a crisis. That includes kids!

I love a story from the newspaper about a ten-year-old boy named Eddie Drain. Eddie lived to play baseball. One year, on the first day of school, Eddie learned from the doctor that he was very sick, with leukemia. He had to take a medicine which would help him to live, but it had to be so strong that it made his hair fall out. Pretty terrible! How would you feel without any of your hair? Well, the newspaper has a photo of Eddie, and as a ten-year-old he looks pretty bald... like a billiard ball. But do you know something? So do all his friends! There isn't often a lot we can do to help somebody who's sick, except to find some way to show them that we care about them, we feel for them. And that's exactly what Eddie's friends did: they found a way! They had all their hair cut off, too—his teammates from baseball, his classmates at school, friends in his neighborhood: 66 boys in all had their hair cut off, so that Eddie would know that they really cared about him. He might feel different; he might feel all alone;

but he would look just the same as they did. Those friends stayed right there. Those friends stayed right there with Eddie while he was sick—just the way Jesus stayed close to his friend Lazarus, just the way he stays close to us. In fact, Eddie's friend J.T. Parker said, "My mom always says me and Eddie were born from the same cookie cutter. Eddie is my best friend, and I would do anything for him. When he's in trouble, I'll always be there for him." Like Lazarus, Eddie is letting his friends bring him back to life. We want to trust the Lord Jesus, who stays close to us every day, to heal our hurts and to help us face fear: to bring us back to life.

I was in the YMCA while I was growing up. At summer camp, I was the Assistant Director. 'Assistant' meant that after bedtime, while the Director and all the group leaders got to go up to the lodge and hang out, I had to stay out in the dark by myself, and walk all through the camp, close to every cabin, to be sure all the campers were staying in their cabins and going to sleep. And so that they couldn't just quiet down when they saw my flashlight, and then get rowdy again as soon as I passed by, I had to learn to walk in complete darkness, with only starlight, feeling my way through the shadows along the dirt paths. And I don't mind telling you: being out there spooked me out, because I was afraid of the dark! So I learned a poem. I memorized it, and I would say it over and over to myself while I felt my way along those paths in the darkness. The poem is called 'The Gate of the Year.'

I said to the man who stood at the
Gate of the Year,

‘Give me a light, that I may tread
safely into the unknown.’

He said to me, ‘Go out into the
darkness
and put your hand into the hand
of God.

It shall be to you better than a
light,

and safer than a known way.’

When I memorized this poem
as a teen, I hadn’t learned yet that it
was written by an English woman,
Minnie Louise Haskins, or that
the young Princess Elizabeth had
read it when she was 13, and rec-
ommended it to her father, King
George VI, who included it in a
Christmas message to the nation
during Britain’s darkest hours in
World War II. For me, saying that
poem to myself night after night
was how I got over being afraid of
the dark. That was my act of faith.
It was how I first invited God to
walk close to me when I felt very
much alone.

So today, as we struggle to stay
calm and carry on through the
threats of the Coronavirus; and as
we look ahead to walking the way
of the cross in Holy Week, begin-
ning on Palm Sunday, just a week
from today, let us also recognize
and give thanks for those around
us whom God is raising to life. Let
us give thanks for Eddie Drain and
his 66 bare-headed friends; for our
parish friend who is giving extra to
the Food Bank so that none may
go hungry through this necessary
shut-down; for the man who walks
his dog with a drone; for research-
ers worldwide who are working
on a vaccine against the virus; for
health care workers everywhere;
for all of our neighbors who are
planting potatoes in so many cre-
ative ways this spring; and may

we all find ourselves supported in
this community of prayer and fel-
lowship, and strengthened by our
Lord’s promise, “I am the resurrec-
tion and the life. Those who believe
in me, even though they die, shall
LIVE...” Amen.

Fr. Colville

2020 Parish Statistics

Transfers In

The Rev. Becky Williamson

Sue Moody

New Members by

Confirmation or

Reception

Donald & Faith Misner

Gary & Anita Jacobs

Ric Pike

Transfers Out

Norm & Pat Fisher

Deaths

George Haight

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



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
Administrative Assistant Beth-
el Klein. 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 Beth-
el 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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Holy Week 2020 at St. Francis

Access these special services at home on your smart phone or computer. Search for *www.stfrancis-gvaz.org* on St. Francis' home page, look toward the bottom for the red/white button, to begin.

April 5: Palm Sunday

Choral hymns
Liturgy of the Palms
Passion Gospel of Matthew
Sermon
Prayers

April 9: Maundy Thursday

Choral hymns
Readings on 'Eucharist', with reflection
Prayers

April 10: Good Friday

Opening
Passion Gospel of St. John
Sermon
Solemn Collects
Anthems
Choral Hymns

April 12: Easter Sunday

Easter hymns
Morning Prayer
Lessons & Canticles
Sermon