



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. 55, No. 10

December 2018

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

Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, 16 December at 4 PM
in the Church

Christmas Eve

4:30 PM - Christmas Music

5 PM - The Holy Eucharist

8:30 PM - Christmas Music

9 PM - The Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day

9 AM - Holy Eucharist (Chapel)



*We wish you a blessed
and joyous Christmas and
a prosperous New Year.*

From our Rector . . .

Dear Friends,

As you read this the church will be transitioning into a brand new liturgical year. On Sunday, November 25, our liturgical year came to an end with the Last Sunday after Pentecost. It has become common to call this Sunday the celebration of Christ the King. Some denominations, such as the Uniting Churches in Australia, refer to it as the Reign of Christ. Interestingly, the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Sweden referred to it as Sunday of Doom until 1983 because of its apocalyptic overtones but have since referred to it as Return of Christ. The Church in Wales (Anglican) calls the four Sundays before Advent the Sundays of the Kingdom and Christ the King is observed as a season and not a single festal day. This last Sunday of the year is also informally called, by some Anglican churches, Stir Up Sunday because the Collect for that day in the Church of England Book of Common Prayer begins with the words, "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people."

Then on the following Sunday, December 2 this year, we begin a whole new liturgical cycle beginning with the First Sunday of Advent. The word Advent (from the Latin *Adventus*) means "Coming." Because Advent takes place the four Sundays before Christmas most people assume that it prepares us for the birth of Christ. But pay attention to the scripture readings during Advent. What they speak about and point us toward is the coming again of Christ, also referred to as the Second Coming or the Second Advent.

On the first Sunday of Advent the gospel is typically a reading from the apocalyptic literature that talks about the "end times." The next two Sundays focus on the message of John the Baptist to be prepared. Again, this preparation is for the coming again of Christ. It's not until the fourth Sunday of Advent that we typically hear gospel readings that direct our attention to the incarnation—the birth of Jesus.

With the admonition to be ready for the coming again of Jesus, the season of Advent takes on the tone of joyful expectation. There is profound joy at the coming again of the "bridegroom"

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From our Assistant Rector...

“Will you seek to serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?”

If this question seems familiar, it's because it's one of the promises in the Baptismal Covenant, a promise that you've said or was said on your behalf.

Have you ever thought about why we promise to seek to serve Christ in all persons? Why not just seek to serve Christ? Perhaps the answer lies in the reason we celebrate Christmas. The birth of the baby Jesus, the Son of God in the flesh.

The importance of the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ really can't be overstated. For God to come among us as one of us was an amazing gift of love to all of humankind. This is what we prepare for in Advent and celebrate at Christmas. And this is what allows us to see Christ in others – through the incarnation we can know God as one of us. The mysterious God that transcends our form of knowing took on human form in Jesus so that we might know him. So that we could relate to him and share with each other the love that he shares with us. Since we have known Christ as both fully human and fully divine, he has allowed us to see him in each other – in humanity. Christ dwells within each of us, a living expression of God's love.

So we find Christ in all who, like him, were made in the image of God. In all of our brothers and sisters. The people we know, and those we don't. Those who look like us, and those who look different. The rich, the poor. The people we agree with, and the ones we disagree with. The model citizens and the criminals. The able-bodied and the disabled. The educated and the uneducated. Christ's love rests in us all, and we find Christ by engaging with and serving all persons.

Recently I saw Christ in a small boy named David in a migrant shelter in Nogales, Sonora. He and his mother were awaiting their turn at the first step in the asylum process. David, who was about six years old, was a real Dennis the Menace – all boy, oblivious to the problems of the world, interested only in playing with the other children, and hoping to be a superhero some day. He was so very human, as were all the others that I saw in the shelter and at the border that day. As I prepare for the coming of Christ and celebrate his birth, I will remember that Christ is here, among us in boys like David and all our human brothers and sisters, and give thanks for the opportunity to know and serve him.

Rev. Pam

The Franciscan Staff

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Saint Francis-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church

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THE RT. REV. KIRK S. SMITH, PH.D., D.D.

Bishop

THE REV. DANIEL J. MESSIER

Rector

THE REV. PAMELA W. HYDE

Assistant Rector

THE VESTRY

Wayne North, Senior Warden;

Arnie Berglund, Junior Warden;

Mary Beth Bates, David Dunn, Sandy Eckstein,

Larry Howell, Orji Isiogu, Glenn Matto,

Bobbi Tucker, Carol Vleck,

ex officio: Erik Ringkjøb, Treasurer;

Bobbi Tucker, Clerk

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The mission of

St. Francis in the Valley, Green Valley,

is to live as Christ's heart and hands

in the world.

Senior Warden's Notes

An age of gratitude is where I've been looking to find myself, and I've succeeded in finding it right here at St. Francis.

We've recently experienced an evening together celebrating an expression of gratitude by St. Francis in the Valley . . . our annual Gratitude Celebration Dinner. On that first Friday evening in November, St. Francis thanked us all for our generosity by giving us a fun-filled evening of friendship and togetherness, filled with delicious food and wine, along with gracious service from a well-managed staff from the 19th Hole. Yes, our Parish is a living entity in our daily lives and thrives on our generosity, and each November St. Francis repays our generosity with its own expression of gratitude.

Take away our generosity, and our Parish becomes a mere shell with multiple walls with a roof overhead. Take away our generosity and our church becomes a false statement of mission, a place without purpose in our lives and community. Take away our generosity and our Parish no longer is a place in our community where others can visit, share experiences, and become refreshed in a renewal of their own expressions of gratitude.

I've been truly blessed to have received and shared in the gratitude given me by St. Francis, and each and every member of this, my faith community. I am forever thankful for the support you have given me in my position as Senior Warden. I have asked many of you to serve in various capacities in our Parish life and to share your time, talents and treasure in our numerous ministries. And you have not said, "No, I don't have the time nor the interest to give what you ask of me." Instead you have told me, "Yes, tell me where I can best use my time and talents." Your generosity speaks well of our mission statement "to live as Christ's heart and hands in the world."

And now, as we near the end of 2018, may I remind you to turn in your Estimate of Giving form for 2019 quickly, if you have not done so, as the Parish Finance Office is working hard to prepare our annual budget for 2019, and the annual meeting is coming up soon in January.

continued next column

Again, thank you for your generosity of time, talent and treasure to St. Francis.

Wayne North, Senior Warden

Stewardship Notes

Someone mentioned an interesting phrase to me recently: "We give ourselves to God. Then God decides how to spend us." Catchy, right? It was so interesting that I wrote it on a little sticky note on my desk, and I keep looking at it. And I keep thinking about it, especially in the last month as we have asked for Estimates of Giving, attended the Ministry Fair, held the Gratitude Dinner, and as I've watched meal preparation for Kino Border Initiative (and even eaten a delicious breakfast from that same group!) What does that statement mean? How does it impact us here at St. Francis? On a regular basis we read scripture about how some of us are teachers, others are healers, some are prophets and some are shepherds (Ephesians 4:11) and it is all to equip us for works of ministry. At the recent Ministry Fair I counted 26 different ministries, and there were large numbers of parishioners signing up to participate in the different ministries. And not every ministry was represented that day! I can see this as being how we "give ourselves to God." Then actually participating in the life of the Parish, being active in the ministries for which we are called (whether as apostles or teachers or shepherds!) is how God spends us.

If I am doing what God has called me to do, that could be one definition of being self-actualized, of being a happy and fulfilled person. And God calls us, again and again, to extend ourselves to other people, especially to the poor, to children, to the aged, and to the sick. Certainly St. Benedict set the gold standard on that kind of care! And the St. Francis Parish is definitely providing care on many fronts – to immigrant families, to people on the border who are without food or work, to the local Food Bank, to schools for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, to being with those walking painful and difficult paths in their lives. This is a giving Parish. I have seen time and again how people are willing to give of their time, the most valuable resource we can provide. I hope

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Budget Time Is Upon Us

Please return your Estimate of Giving for 2019 if you have not done so. The Finance Committee is hard at work trying to set the budget for next year. If you've lost your Estimate of Giving form we'll gladly provide you with another.

Gift for Bishop and Laura Smith

On January 13 Bishop Smith will be making his last Episcopal visit to St. Francis before his retirement. We'd like to present the Bishop and Laura with a monetary gift for their years of ministry and leadership. If you'd like to contribute to a purse for them please clearly mark you donation "Bishop Smith." Please submit your donation by January 6.

Taxes! Taxes! Taxes!

If you have a yearly income tax liability with the Arizona Department of Revenue, you can make a significant gift to the Imago Dei Middle School, a member school of the Arizona Episcopal Schools Foundation, and partner with St. Francis. And it won't cost you a dime! You get the tax credit and the students get an exceptional education that prepares them for a bright future. Over forty members at St. Francis are already doing just this. Won't you join them? A brief informational meeting will be held between services the first and second Sundays in December in the Conference Room next to the Parish Hall. Call Wayne North at 399-9208 if you have questions, or would like further information.

Narthex Christmas Tree

We are looking for a few parishioners to take charge of the annual setting up, maintenance, and decorating of the Narthex Christmas Tree. We have a prelighted tree, but as the existing chrismons were made by hand many years ago, they are in need of replacement. If you would like to be part of this group, please call Norma Pool at 520-625-5644

All New Website

The Communications Committee has been hard at work for several months now developing a new website with the aid of Alli Huggins, web designer and friend of Rev. Pam. We anticipate the launch of the new website to happen on December 1 or very soon after. We hope you'll like the new design and the simplicity with which it presents a picture of St. Francis Church, its life, and mission.

Christmas Stars

Thank you for picking up all of the Christmas Stars for the Salvation Army. Please note that gifts must be returned to the Parish Office by December 10. Your generosity will bring joy to many children.

We are all greeters

It's easy to think of the Greeters as those people scheduled every Sunday to stand at the door and offer welcome and hospitality to people who are guests or are new to St. Francis church. However, it's really a responsibility that we all share as members of the Parish. To me it's very important to make people feel at home. Have you ever been to a church and attended a Service where you felt completely ignored? I have. It makes me feel like I don't belong to the "inner circle" or that I just don't matter. I know that's not where our heart is, being the warm, friendly people that we are. However, once in a while I hear from someone that they felt ignored at coffee hour and stood alone with no one making an attempt to offer friendly conversation and welcome. Let's make a big effort to be intentional about our hospitality and not assume that it's someone else's job. We are all greeters.

Fr. Dan

Prayer Chain

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

Blue Christmas Service

The weeks leading up to Christmas ring out with holiday cheers, joyful music and festive gatherings. But, in reality, it is not a time of happiness and merriment for everyone. In fact, it can be fraught with pain as some remember deceased loved ones, broken relationships, the ache of loneliness, the angst of despair, or the various hardships of a year passing by. In short, Christmas can be a “blue” time of year for many, a time that is often dealt with in quiet and isolation.

Again this year we’ll offer an opportunity for people to acknowledge these “blue” feelings and, at the same time, experience the comfort of a loving community within the context of a simple liturgy. Liturgy can often fill a gap and give expression to feelings that otherwise words cannot express. On Sunday afternoon, December 16, at 4 PM, we’ll offer a Blue Christmas Service as a gesture of prayer and support. You are not alone.

We welcome attendance by all people whether this is a difficult time of year for you or not. It’s an opportunity to give comfort to and simply be with those who do.

Seekers Discussion Group

A new year is coming! Do you feel like ducking? Well, anyway, the Seekers Group will be starting a new project with the new year, and it will be announced when we decide what it will be. For December we will finish our discussions of Bishop Spong’s book *Unbelievable*. The Group meets at 12:30 PM until about 1:50 PM in the Conference Room. For more information, call Anne Charter at 625-9591.

Parish Offices will be closed . . .

Christmas Eve	Monday, 24 December
Christmas Day	Tuesday, 25 December
Day After Christmas	Wednesday, 26 December
New Year’s Eve	Monday, 31 December
New Year’s Day	Tuesday, 1 January 2019

Lessons and Carols

Tickets are available from Gerald for the Green Valley presentation of True Concord’s popular LESSONS & CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT on Friday, December 14, here at St. Francis. General Admission tickets are priced at \$25 and Priority Seating at \$40. The program starts at 7 PM, but it’s a good idea to arrive early.

How to tell a carol from a hymn

Apart from words, what’s the difference between a hymn and a carol, if there is a difference? Clearly words have something to do with it, but not in the way you might imagine. Think of the carols *O little town of Bethlehem* and *Angels we have heard on high*. The latter has a refrain (*Gloria in excelsis Deo*, the only bit of Latin most people know these days) while the former doesn’t. And that’s the difference. A carol, properly-so-called, has a refrain. All the rest are hymns. (That’s something of an over-simplification, but never mind; it won’t be held against you if you fail – at your next cocktail party – to make clear the point that *Silent night, holy night* is not really a carol, but a hymn.)

There are all kinds of carols which have nothing to do with Christmas. There are spring carols and harvest carols, Easter carols and, even, Lenten carols. It’s interesting to note, as pointed out by the great twentieth century hymnologist Erik Routley, that lots of people sing carols who wouldn’t be caught dead singing a hymn. Sad commentary though that may be, it says something about the power and value of the Christmas Carol. (I know people who don’t believe in God but who, for some strange reason, believe in the existence of angels. But, I digress.)

In liturgical confessions (i.e. Episcopal, Roman Catholic and Lutheran – the Orthodox church doesn’t know anything about carols) singing carols *before* Christmas – in Advent, in other words – is strictly verboten. So, if you’re singing (or humming or whistling) Christmas carols while going about your daily rounds – and it happens to be Advent – take care you are not found out. Otherwise Fr. Dan will get another tattoo.

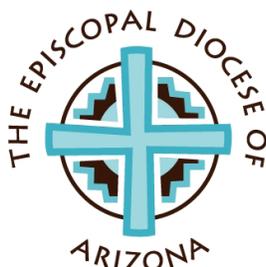
Happy Christmas,
Gerald Near

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Judy Turberg
- 4 Carol Sand
- 5 Justine Saavedra
- 6 Madeleine Glaser
- 9 Neal Hursh
Carol Putnam
Richard Duggin
- 12 Clarinda Hickox
- 15 Arnie Berglund
- 16 Bea Dow
Maxwell Ongley
- 18 Maureen Matto
- 20 Ann Zublin
- 22 Anna Johnson
Orji Isiogu
Rae Turberg
- 24 Jeanne Jones
- 27 Janice Hall
- 28 Doris Kuzmak
- 29 Richard Sand
- 30 Jenny Ryan

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Bob & Nancy Allen
- 3 Fred & Nancy Stine
- 12 Victor & Mary Levine
- 14 John & Marilou Johnstone
- 15 Melissa & Peter Bentley
- 16 John & Roberta Davis
- 17 Stan & Dawn Wagaman
Bill & Jane Barkley
Jim & Julie Ratley
- 18 David & Jylene Wright
- 20 Dale & Lois Plante
Bill & Jenny Ryan
- 22 Don & Diane Ward
- 23 David & Edna Dunn
- 27 Harry & Patty Russell
Gary & Barbara LaBarre
- 29 Dennis & Babbie Lynton



From the Rector

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for those who are prepared.

Blue Christmas Service

December 16 at 4 PM

The season leading up to Christmas is not joyful for everyone. Many carry the pain and memory of loss or hardship that overshadows the gaiety of the season. This "blue" feeling is acknowledged and respected during the Blue Christmas Service where we give comfort and support to those feeling down.

It's a good opportunity for all of us to show how much we care by coming to this Service in support of those who are suffering with sadness. Please set this time aside in your calendars.

With much love and affection,

Fr. Dan

*Need a ride to a
Parish Event?*

Our St. Francis Men's Group is offering rides to those in need of transportation to Parish events. If you are unable to provide your own transport and would like to schedule a ride, please call the Parish Office, 625-1370.

Recycle

We are able to recycle used ink jet cartridges at \$2 each, realizing over \$600 a year toward office supplies. Recycle boxes are located in the Parish Office and just inside the southwest door of the Parish Hall.

Do we have...

your@e-mail.address?

Stewardship Notes

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everyone who is active in the parish, to the extent possible individually, feels self-actualized, feels that God is spending him or her in the best possible way.

On behalf of the Stewardship Ministry group, thank you if you have turned in your Estimate of Giving. And thank you if you intend to do so in the near future. And, if you feel that God is calling you to serve as a Stewardship Ministry participant I hope you will prayerfully consider that, and let me know. There is always room at the table when God has called you. It is a great group of giving people and another way of being of service to this Parish.

Best wishes during this upcoming season of gratitude, and as we head into Advent. God has poured blessings upon us, and it is in our sharing of those blessings that we truly serve God.

Brand E Faupell,
Stewardship Chair

Altar Flowers

Would you like to have flowers on the altar on a certain Sunday? Flowers can be given in loving memory of someone or in thanksgiving for persons or for a special date and occasion you wish to celebrate. Call the Parish Office or Carol Berg (520-373-5770) with your request. Donations are \$35 for the flowers.



To my St. Francis family:

I would like to thank you for your generosity funding my purse.

Words cannot express the sincerity of the level of appreciation I have for your assistance and support during my diaconate.

Again, I would like to thank you for your love, support, and generosity.

Sincerely,

Stan Wagaman

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers: just what are they, who are they, and what do they do? Simply put we are lay people from the Parish who are trained to walk beside someone who is going through a difficult time in his or her life. We meet, we listen, we provide a compassionate ear, a shoulder to lean on, and confidentiality.

If you think you might like to explore becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact one of us: Marybeth Bates (206-259-0361 or emmymex@yahoo.com); BrandE Faupell (435-512-0286 or bfaupell@gmail.com) or Judy Craig (520-237-0466 or judyismyname@zoho.com).

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



2018 Parish Statistics

Deaths

- Susan Masters
- Emmet Ridley
- Michael Andersen
- Jane Nye
- Dody Kinsey
- Esther Nisbet
- Walter Kuzmak
- The Rev. Tom Pringle
- Vic Wyly
- Mary Alice Robinson
- Douglas Wolfe
- Marlene Heene
- Ed Roach
- Thomas Heaney
- Kathleen Heaney
- Mary Liddell
- Joyce McGlaston

Transfers In

- Dorothy Harrelson
- Eva Jenkins
- Carol Clayton
- Janie Hessong
- George & Ona Gibson
- Alex Stoffel & Lila Hauge-Stoffel
- John & Gerlinde Juhala
- Teddi Byrd
- Stu & Marilyn Findley
- Connie Wilt
- Charlotte Neyland

Transfers Out

- Warren & Nancy Joblin

Home Communion

If you, or someone you know, would like to have the Sacrament brought to you at home, please call Carol Lyons (520-648-8196) to arrange for this service. We are very happy to bring the Sacrament to to anyone who cannot attend church for any reason.

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 Rae Turberg in the Parish Financial Office to update your information for our records.

St. Francis-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church
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