



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. 56, No. 10

December 2019

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

Blue Christmas Service
Sunday, 15 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)



From our Interim Rector . . .

GUESS WHOS'S COMING AT CHRISTMAS

Well, it's Jesus, of course. This is Advent, and you knew that right away. What I want to get at is...*that Jesus brings an agenda with him.* It's the agenda of the prophets: that God is sending help to people of the first century Mideast. Ninety-eight percent of the population of the ancient Mideast was poor, and was oppressed by the other 2%. So, news that God is sending help is *good news* for just about everybody. And it is delivered to us from the prophets every year, in Advent.

God's good news is that the poor will be relieved, fairness will extend further down the social scale, outcasts will be brought under the net of social care—and God will send a personal emissary to carry out these reforms.

By Jesus' lifetime, one prophet has emerged as more prescient, poetic and hopeful than any other. Among the excavated Dead Sea Scrolls, more copies of his work are found than of all the other biblical prophets combined. This prophet is Isaiah. He is the hottest personality being studied by serious thinkers in the first-century Mideast. In addition to presenting God's justice, generosity, mercy and love in vivid 'picture language', Isaiah's message is relentlessly hopeful.

Isaiah is as popular as ever today, because of his hope-filled message. Handel's 'Messiah' puts to music more texts from *Isaiah* than from any other book of the Bible. In our BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER the eucharistic lessons for Advent and Christmas in Years A, B and C contain a total of 21 readings from the Old Testament; seventeen of them are from *Isaiah*. He is clearly the favorite, because he expresses our hopes for a better, fairer, more caring and inclusive world. This is the agenda Jesus claims for his own (Luke 4:16-21) when he stands and reads from *Isaiah* in the synagogue at Nazareth.

Then St. Matthew tells us that when John the Baptist was imprisoned by Herod, he sent word to Jesus: "*Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?*" Let us note Jesus' answer: "*Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the dead are raised and the poor have good news brought to them.*"

In Advent, let us take this statement to heart! Where we see the works

continued next page

of God being done among us, we can affirm that God is come to us. *Where we pitch in and contribute to feed, clothe and heal the hurting world, there the Reign of God has come near to us. Christmas gives us every opportunity by our generosity and our service to bring God's kingdom near.*

In Christ's love,
Fr. Colville



Senior Warden's Notes

I offer up this fifth and last of five installments of my series of everyday events, which can help to shape one's views on stewardship, and more importantly how we interact with those around us. Do we look for opportunities that will have a positive influence on the lives of our friends and strangers? This particular story is one that we might easily recognize as an "everyday" type of story, in that it is a description of a frequently encountered situation experienced in many of our lives.

Life's Fifth Important Lesson - Giving When it Counts . . .

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, 'Yes I'll do it if it will save her.' As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheek. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, 'Will I start to die right away?' Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister ALL of his blood in order to save her but he had chosen to save her anyway.

The question we must ask ourselves...What was the lesson learned and how would it come to change our lives? When you have the answer, and you are satisfied with your answer, share it with others, and as others share their answers, we will all have made our contribution toward making this a better place in which to live.

As I stated in my previous four columns, when we take the lessons learned from these five stories and pair them with the everyday practice of our most common forms of stewardship, we achieve a better understanding of how we can influence the lives of those around us in a more positive light.

"Work like you don't need the money, love like you've never been hurt, and dance like you do when nobody's watching."

Wayne North, Senior Warden

THE FRANCISCAN STAFF

Published monthly
except June & August by

Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

600 South La Cañada Drive

Green Valley AZ 85614

(520) 625-1370 – www.stfrancis.azdiocese.org

www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz

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, David Dunn, Sandy Eckstein,

Larry Howell, Orji Isiogu, Sandy Russell,

Cheryl Tardy-Albin, Helen Mullaly, Jenica Hisko,

ex officio: Erik Ringkjøb, Treasurer;

Bobbi Tucker, Clerk

CHURCH STAFF

Gerald Near

Parish Administrator

Deborah Harby

Financial Officer

Gerald Near

Director of Music

Beth-el Klein

Administrative Assistant

J. Michael Case

Organist

Sharlyn Matthews

Director Emeritus, Handbell Ensemble

Janet Miller

Organist Emeritus

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.

Junior Warden's Notes

We have been trying to keep up with our aging roofing needs. In the spring we had the tile roof on the southwest end of the Church and the adjoining roof over the bathrooms in the Chapel wing repaired. The Chapel Woman's Bathroom ceiling was also repaired and painted. This Fall we are working to repair and re-coat the roofs over the classrooms and the offices and repair a leak under the tiles on the southwest section of the church roof. Hopefully it will be completed by December.

It has been a year for the replacement of our aging air conditioning units. In the beginning of the year, we replaced 2 units, Vulliamy and a classroom. In October, we had to replace one over the Conference Room. In November, we replaced two more over the classrooms. Now we should have a good working set of up to date equipment to keep us warm and cool.

We are constantly working to update our electrical and lighting needs. Our next project is to add sidewalk lighting along the northeast corner of the parking lot, where people park along the fencing. It will include the addition of outdoor lighting for the dumpster area.

Julie Reppenhagen, Junior Warden

On Stewardship

On behalf of the Stewardship Ministry, here is a big shout-out of thanks to all who have returned their estimates of giving; it allows us to send thank you notes and it helps the treasurer set a budget for the coming year. So thanks a million for getting them turned in. And if you have not yet returned yours, it's not too late! We'd love to be able to send you a note of thanks for your generosity.

We're starting a new adventure with the arrival of Fr. Warren Leibovitch. Many of you will have had the opportunity to meet him in early December at the annual Covenant Fund Christmas Card Party. It will be exciting to start a new year with him, and see what experiences he brings to us (and how our many ministries interest him!). We certainly are an active parish, and it's all due to your sharing resources with us. We couldn't do all that we presently do, except for the time and effort put in by so many of you. All I can say is thank you, bless you, Merry Christmas, and thanks for all you continue to do for St. Francis!

On behalf of the Stewardship Ministry,
BrandE Jaupell, Stewardship Ministry Chair

Missing Estimates of Giving

Help! We sent out 300 Estimate of Giving forms. Thanks to the 130 who returned theirs! Help us reach our goal of 300 by returning yours if you haven't done so.

The Twenty-third Annual Covenant Fund Christmas Card Party

The will be celebrated this year at 3 PM on Wednesday, December 4, in the Parish Hall (please note time change).

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO REPORT that our special guests on this occasion will be St. Francis in the Valley's new Rector, The Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch and his wife Annette. Fr. Warren will be on hand to meet you and to answer any questions you may have.

The scrumptious food will be served by the Hansen's and their staff from Santa Cruz Catering in Amado, and our friend Angel Perez will play beautiful holiday music. This is one of many special missions at St. Francis where we look out for one another. Here is how it works: instead of purchasing and mailing Christmas cards to all your friends at St. Francis, get one card and sign it and bring it to the party. Your card will be used to decorate the Christmas tree in the Parish Hall for everyone to enjoy. Contribute the money you save on postage and cards to the Covenant Fund. The fund was created by Dorothy Baldwin, Barb Hook's mother. It is used exclusively for St. Francis parishioners in need of financial assistance. There is no cost for your meal; just your generous donations for this special St. Francis mission.

Ruth in Advent

Here comes a delightful Advent Bible study to prepare you for Christmas! It's an intimate story with cosmic consequences. The Book of Ruth is short (just four chapters) and sweet (happy ending), but it packs plenty of punch in those four chapters! Naomi and Ruth face life-threatening adversity and navigate risky relationships. We will have fun looking at the text to see how love conquers all!

December 2 Perils of family life!

December 9 Women without men

December 16 Survival? Seduction?

December 23 Bridge to the future

Four Mondays in December, 9 to 10:30 am in the Conference Room. Invite a friend!

Volunteers Needed

•**8 AM USHERS NEEDED** – We are currently needing 2-3 early worshipers to step up and become part of our active group of ushers. This is not a difficult ministry to participate in, but very rewarding and necessary. Serve only once every 4-5 weeks. Please give this your prayerful consideration. Contact Ken Adams at: keninswaz@gmail.com

•**OFFICE VOLUNTEER NEEDED** – We are in need of a volunteer for a 2-hour shift in the Parish Office on Wednesdays. It can either be an 8 -10 AM or NOON -2 PM shift. Anyone wishing to step up for this ministry should contact Cheryl Mendoza at mendoza-oldies@hotmail.com.

A Great Success

Our annual Ministry Fair was a great success! So many of you stepped up and signed on to at least one ministry. It goes without saying that the generosity of each of you to spend your time supporting the efforts of our Parish are unparalleled. Thank you! The Stephen Ministry won the cookie contest again this year! (Honorable Mention goes to Gary LaBarre for his bourbon balls...Yikes!) How much fun tasting all the goodies and becoming aware of all of the great work our parishioners do each and every day. Kudos to your dedication and many thanks for supporting the “new kid on the block.”

St. Francis Parish Choir

Our Fall Choir season has begun and we are looking for singers in all sections of the ensemble; if you would like to join this congenial group, get in touch with Music Director Gerald Near through the Parish Office (625-1370) or via email at gerald@stfrancis-gvaz.org. Rehearsals are held Thursdays at 2 PM in the Choir Loft.

Seekers Discussion

The Seekers Group meets each Thursday at 12:30 PM in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome at any meeting. For additional information, please call Anne Charter at 625-9591.

Parish Offices will be closed . . .

Christmas Eve (Offices close at Noon)
Christmas Day
Day after Christmas
New Years Eve (Offices close at Noon)

Christmas Stars

Remember: Christmas Stars gifts must be turned in to the Parish Office by December 11.

Handbells Anyone?

We will be starting a handbell ensemble at St. Francis. Rehearsals will be once a week beginning in January and will take place in the Choir Loft, day and time to be determined. A background in music is helpful, but not necessary. Any questions, call Sophia Witte at 520-509-5037, or e-mail her at smw_witte@yahoo.com.

Annual Parish Meeting

What do we wait for all year? Why, the Annual Parish Meeting of course! How can football compete with the Annual Report? What could be more exhilarating than parish finances?

But seriously folks, it's important once a year to tend to the business of the Church, and YOU ARE the Church. So don't plan anything for Sunday, January 19, 2020, from 11 AM until (roughly) NOON, that looks at all interesting because, we will entertain you!

St. Francis in the Valley 2020 Tour of Homes Signups

The planning for the 2020 Tour of Homes is underway. The date is Friday March 6, 2020. We are close to securing all our homes for the Tour. While we finalize the homes, we now are actively recruiting help to make the event a success. We need people who will work in the kitchen, serve in the Parish Hall, drive our attendees to the homes, donate refreshments to serve and goodies to sell in our Gourmet Shoppe. We will be having sign-ups at Coffee Hours twice a month until the event. Please help St. Francis raise the funds to give back to our community. It is an event for the whole church. We look forward to seeing you at the sign-up table. Or you can sign up by contacting Julie Reppenhagen at jrepp@snet.net

Outreach

THANK YOU ALL FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Summer may mean fewer tasks and lazy days but not for your Outreach Committee and not for all of you. During the hot summer months you provided more than 131 pounds of cereal and paper goods, more than 200 diapers along with wipes and over two dozen jars of baby food and 4 dozen cans of formula for our babies. You also stepped up to the plate for our seniors citizens and packed 70 gift bags for the happy folks at Valley Assistance. The Green Valley community is lucky to have all the caring folks at St. Francis.

Kudos to the four new Franciscans who joined the committee at the November 3 Ministry Fair too. More people mean we can accomplish more. Now if we could only find a leader for this faithful group. Think about it. There is already a treasurer and a secretary and talented workers who would welcome you and make your job easy.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Phillip Batwin
Grace Ann Bellamy
Judith Turberg
- 4 Beth McKibbin
Carol Sand
- 5 Justine Saavedra
- 6 Madeleine Glaser
Steve Smith
- 8 Christopher Nye
- 9 Richard Duggin
Neal Hursh
Carol Putnam
- 12 Clarinda Hickox
- 15 Arnie Berglund
- 16 Beatrice Dow
Edward Rodden
- 18 Alicia Baucom
Maureen Matto

- 20 Ann Zublin
- 22 Orji Isiogu
Rae Turberg
- 23 Karina Barnes
- 24 Jeanne Jones
H. Sandy Russell
- 26 Brenda Quick
- 27 Mary Hale
Janice Hall
- 28 Doris Kuzmak
- 29 Doris Nason
Richard Sand
- 30 Jenny Ryan

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Bob & Nancy Allen
- 12 Victor & Mary Levine
- 14 John & Marilou Johnstone
- 16 John & Roberta Davis
- 17 Stan & Dawn Wagaman
Bill & Jane Barkley
Jim & Julie Ratley
Michael & Mary Staples
- 18 David & Jylene Wright
Gary & Cheryl Mendoza
- 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

NAMI Class

Mental illness impacts the lives of at least one in five adults and one in ten children.

The National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) office in Tucson is addressing this issue by presenting a *Family to Family Class* for families, partners and close friends of those with serious mental illness here in Green Valley/Sahuarita beginning in January, 2020. The class will be held at The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, 17750 S. La Cañada, Sahuarita, AZ 85629.

Two trained NAMI leaders will guide the class; there is no cost to

continued next column

the participants, but donations will be accepted.

A special time will be given for problem-solving, listening and communication skills. Strategies will be presented for handling crises and relapse as well as locating support and services.

Registration and questions may be addressed to Barb Eyre at 437-5727.



2019 Parish Statistics

Baptisms

Darrin Dale Hoiland, Jr.
Ric Pike

Deaths

Rod Thompson
Maggie Covert
Nilo Larriva
Bruce Zimmerman
Olive Clapp
John Zimmerman
Leon Adams
Barbara Gonzales
Elizabeth "Betsy" Suter

Russ Symes
Mary Beth Minkley
Marleen Bell

Transfers In

Ford & Cathy Demming
Carolyn Gates & Will Wiemer
Ken & Angelique Warren
Jack & Barbara Bundy
Michael & Mary Staples
Kristi Menix

Transfers Out

Robert & Anna Johnson
Jennifer Symons
The Rev. Daniel & Phyllis Messier

December

Parish Events Only

Sunday, December 1 –Advent I

8:00a -Holy Eucharist
10:00a -Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 2

9:00a -Morning Prayer – Cpl
-Advent Class – CfR
10:30a -ESL – CR
1:30p -Grief Support – SFR

Tuesday, December 3

9:00a -Staff Meeting – L
10:30a -Vestry Officers – RO
1:00p -Stephen Ministry – SFR,
L, CfR, VR

Wednesday, December 4

9:00a -Holy Eucharist – Cpl
3:00p -Christmas Card Party

Thursday, December 5

9:00a -Finance – CfR
10:00a -Women's Group – SFR
10:15a -Centering Prayer – Cpl
12:15p -Seekers Discussion – CfR
2:00p -Parish Choir – Loft
2:30p -Home Tour Cmte – VR

Friday, December 6

8:00a -Bulletins – L

Saturday, December 7

No Parish events scheduled

Sunday, December 8 –Advent II

8:00a -Holy Eucharist
10:00a -Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 9

9:00a -Morning Prayer – Cpl
-Advent Class – CfR
1:30p -Grief Support – SFR

Tuesday, December 10

8:00a -Men's Group – CfR
11:00a -Social Activities
6:00p -Vestry – CfR

Wednesday, December 11

9:00a -Holy Eucharist – Cpl
9:30a -DOK – VR

Thursday, December 12

10:15a -Centering Prayer – Cpl
12:15p -Seekers Discussion – CfR
2:00p -Parish Choir – Loft

Friday, December 13

8:00a -Bulletins – L
7:00p -True Concord Lessons &
Carols

Saturday, December 14

No Parish events scheduled

Sunday, December 15 –Advent III

8:00a -Holy Eucharist
10:00a -Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 16

9:00a -Morning Prayer – Cpl
-Advent Class – CfR
10:00a -Outreach – L

Tuesday, December 17

9:00a -Staff Meeting – L
1:00p -Stephen Ministry – SFR,
L, CfR, VR

Wednesday, December 18

9:00a -Holy Eucharist – Cpl
12:00p -Border Ministry – PH

Thursday, December 19

9:00a -KBI Brkfst Prep – Ktchn
10:00a -Women's Group – SFR
-Communications – L
10:15a -Centering Prayer – Cpl
12:15p -Seekers Discussion – CfR
2:00p -Parish Choir – Loft

Friday, December 20

6:00a -KBI Brkfst Prep – Ktchn
8:00a -Bulletins – L

Saturday, December 21

No Parish events scheduled

Sunday, December 22 –Advent IV

8:00a -Holy Eucharist
10:00a -Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 23

9:00a -Morning Prayer – Cpl
-Advent Class – CfR

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:30p -Christmas Music

5:00p -Holy Eucharist
8:30p -Christmas Music
9:00p -Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day

9:00a -Holy Eucharist – Cpl

Thursday, December 26

10:15a -Centering Prayer – Cpl

Friday, December 27

8:00a -Bulletins – L

Saturday, December 28

No Parish events scheduled

Sunday, December 29

8:00a -Holy Eucharist
10:00a -Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 30

9:00a -Morning Prayer – Cpl

Tuesday, December 31

Calendar Legend

CfR - Conference Room,
L - Library, VR - Vulliamy Room,
PH - Parish Hall,
MR - Meditation Room,
Cpl - Chapel, CR - Classroom,
Ctyd - Courtyard,
MG - Memorial Garden,
SFR - St. Francis Room,
Lby - Labyrinth,
RO - Rector's Office,
Ktchn - Kitchen

Do we have...

your@e-mail.address?

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.

Seekers Discussion Group

The Seekers Discussion Group, as you may remember (or maybe not), began almost twenty years ago as a group to discuss various religious interests of the members as a replacement for Education for Ministry. We were not having enough people sign up for EfM to have a class (requirements from 'head-quarters'—Sewanee Seminary).

The Seekers Group now meets every Thursday afternoon from 12:30 PM to 1:50 PM. It gives participants the opportunity to talk with other 'seekers after knowledge' about religious/spiritual topics. No politics are discussed; there is no attempt at 'fixing' participant's problems. Everyone who likes to share conversation about such subjects is invited, welcomed, and listened to without judgment. You need not be a biblical scholar or theological savant. Just come and join in.

The first project for January, January 2 at 12:30 PM, is to view and discuss the movie *The Whales of August*, starring Lillian Gish, Bette Davis, Vincent Price, and Ann Southern.

Home Communion

If you or someone you know would like to have a home visit or the Sacrament brought to you at home, please let Deacon Becky Williamson know by calling her at 480-204-0022 (or via email at 1beckyw@cox.net). We are happy to bring the Sacrament to those who are ill or to anyone who cannot attend services for any reason.

Stephen Ministry

Have you given any thought to becoming a Stephen Minister? Would you like to explore the basics, the training or anything else about this vital ministry?

For more information contact: Marybeth Bates (emmymex@yahoo.com or 206-259-0361); Mark Eckstein (az9261954@gmail.com or 433-807-2277); Cheryl Tardy-Albin (ltybbear1@gmail.com or 520-235-9031); or BrandE Faupell (bfaupell@gmail.com or 435-512-0286).

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 in your life that you wish to celebrate. Say it with flowers! Call the Parish Office or Carol Berg (520-373-5770) with your request. Donations are \$35 for the flowers.

Prayer Chain

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

Spiritual Direction

We are fortunate to have professional individual Spiritual Direction available to us at St. Francis. For an appointment please call Charlotte Neyland at 720-289-2750.

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.

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 Bethel 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 Bethel 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

ST. FRANCIS-IN-THE-VALLEY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
600 South La Cañada Drive
Green Valley AZ 85614

Address Service Requested

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
Paid
Green Valley AZ
Permit No. 9