



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. 58, No. 2

February 2021

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

From Fr. Warren . . .

Dear Friends,

It always amazes me how fast the church seasons come and go. We are currently, at the beginning of February, in the season of Epiphany, a season in which we continue to seek and follow the Light of the World born in Bethlehem at Christmas.

It is our nature to want to continue to bask in that light and joy of Christmas and Epiphany, but just as the people of Israel didn't stay long in any one place during their wandering in the desert, we too are a people that continue to journey and wander, seeking peace, truth, and enlightenment.

The motivation to wander comes from the Holy Spirit that continues to urge us forward, to seek a deeper communion with God and Christ. It is the Holy Spirit that dwells within us that keeps us from being too complacent, stirring up our hearts to do the work of Christ in the world. It is also the same Spirit that guides us to green pastures to be revived and refreshed when we have had our share of dry desert times.

The Holy Spirit and the desert; two images that are central to our next church season, the season of Lent. Lent begins this year with Ash Wednesday on February 17th. Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent begins a time of intentional prayer, penance, reflection, and wandering.

We will hear on the first Sunday of Lent that the Holy Spirit drove Jesus into the desert immediately after His baptism. There he fasted and prayed, eventually standing firm against the temptations of Satan before beginning his ministry and calling His first disciples. An important lesson for us—Lent prepares us for ministry.

Lent is a time for each of us look deep into our hearts, seek God's Grace, forgiveness and love. It is a time to mend broken relationships, heal wounds, and deepen our relationship with Jesus.

Lent is our wilderness time. Not a time of withering away, but a time to seek transformation within. This special season of the church prepares us to journey with Jesus, allowing us to seek His strength and wisdom, to help us deal with challenges of social unrest and pandemic. Ultimately, Lent calls us to take up our cross and follow Jesus, allowing Him to use us for His greater purpose, whatever that may be.

May Lent 2021 be a time to strengthen your faith, or perhaps, allow you to begin your journey of faith, knowing that you do not walk this journey alone, but walk with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. A journey of challenges, but a journey that binds us closer to each other.

In the peace of Christ,

Fr. Warren

*Living Well
Through Lent 2021*

**LISTENING WITH ALL YOUR HEART, SOUL,
STRENGTH, AND MIND**

Join Fr. Warren for six exciting classes beginning February 24 and running through March 31.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| SESSION ONE | <i>The First Week in Lent</i>
Listening to Ourselves |
| SESSION TWO | <i>The Second Week in Lent</i>
Listening to God through
contemplative practices |
| SESSION THREE | <i>The Third Week in Lent</i>
Listening to our neighbor |
| SESSION FOUR | <i>The Fourth Week in Lent</i>
Listening as an act of mercy and love |
| SESSION FIVE | <i>The Fifth Week in Lent</i>
Listening in the midst of change |
| SESSION SIX | <i>Holy Week</i>
Listening with all our heart, soul,
strength and mind |

Let Fr. Warren know of your interest via email at
frwarren@stfranciscgvaz.org

*Embodied
Bible Study*

Starting January 4, 2021, at 11 AM, Fr. Nelson will be offering an "Embodied Bible Study" group weekly through ZOOM.

Rooted in practices from "Embodied Theology," the flow of the study will involve reading the past week's Sunday readings, particularly the Gospel, and then applying interpretations of the text. We will read various translations and Biblical interpretations and then will enter some time for reflection. As you are comfortable, we will explore how your experiences, identities, and personal narratives influence your relationship to the reading and how you engage with it.

You don't need to be a Biblical scholar to understand the Bible. In fact, this group will help to empower you to interpret and digest scripture for your daily lives.

Please email Fr. Nelson directly to register at nelson@stfranciscgvaz.org

Mondays on ZOOM at 11 AM starting January 4, 2021 through April 5, 2021

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Bishop

THE REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH
Rector

The Rev. Nelson Mendoza
Curate

The Rev. Becky Williamson
Deacon

THE VESTRY
Julie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden;
Kristi Menix, Junior Warden;
Mary Beth Bates, Bill Baucom, Barbara Bundy,
Sandy Eckstein, Janie Hessong, Helen Mullaly,
Cheryl Tardy-Albin, Vincent Remillard,
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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.*

*From Our Curate,
The Rev. Nelson Mendoza*
USING PRONOUNS ON ZOOM

It has come to my attention that many folks have been curious as to why I use “He/Him” in my Zoom username during meetings and for invitations. This is a good question and a great invitation to explore ways that we are being called to be a community of God that is welcoming and inclusive for all of God’s people.

In short, utilizing pronouns in Zoom is an effort to build a more inclusive workplace or worship environment for individuals who have gender identities and expressions that differ from what we most frequently think of when we discuss gender.

Gender expansive individuals—those that do not self-identify as male or female—often challenge existing understanding and norms around gender. These employees may opt to use gender expansive pronouns such as “they, them and theirs” instead of the gendered “he, him and his” or “she, her and hers.”

Before you dismiss the practice, please note that one of the many reasons younger communities are avoiding the Church is because they feel that it is not welcoming and inclusive of LGBTQIA+ individuals which include individuals that align across the gender spectrum since gender is a social construct. Therefore, in an attempt to be more inclusive for all of God’s children, I utilize pronouns in my Zoom and general practices where pronouns are discussed.

This is not a mandate or a requirement for you to follow as well. However, it is a simple practice that allows many more individuals to feel welcome in a space that historically has not been welcoming to LGBTQIA+ people.

It is a practice of hospitality and grace.

Blessings,

Nelson+

Outreach

The Outreach Committee is hoping the entire Parish is able to pitch in to help our Community Food Bank during this time of food scarcity for so many. Please see the flyer included in this issue of the Parish Newsletter for information on how you can help.

The Boutique is Open!

Our Talents Unlimited Boutique is open (by appointment only). Many new and exciting items are available and, remember, all proceeds go to Clergy Discretionary Funds, monies used to help those in need. Call Jylene Wright at 812-455-2476 to get your very own private, care-free shopping time. We have unique gifts at totally reasonable prices! We are waiting to hear from you!

Telecare Ministry

Our Telecare Ministry is looking for another volunteer to make phone calls to parishioners on a monthly basis. This is a wonderful ministry that enables our members to remain in contact with the church and especially during this difficult time of the pandemic. If you are interested in making monthly phone calls please contact Deacon Becky at 480-204-0022 to discuss this valuable ministry.

Centering Prayer Group

The Centering Prayer Group is meeting once again, but on Zoom rather than in-person. Meetings include 25 minutes of silence followed by a short Lectio Divina and a few minutes for community reflection. If you would like to join in, get in touch with James or Sophie Luffman: James at jmluffman@hotmail.com or Sophie at sophieluffman@hotmail.com. They will be pleased to hear from you.

Enquirers’ Class Anyone?

Fr. Warren would be pleased to entertain an Enquirers’ Class this year during Lent. If you would like to know more about the Faith, this is the class for you. Let Fr. Warren know of your interest via email at frwarren@stfrancisgvaz.org.

Offering Envelopes

If you have requested offering envelopes, they are here! Please pick up your envelopes on the bench just outside the Parish Office.

Prayer Chain

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

Parish Offices will be closed . . .

Presidents’ Day

Monday, 15 February

Senior Warden's Notes

My name is Julie Reppenhagen and I have been appointed to serve as your new Senior Warden. I am honored to be working with Father Warren and Father Nelson as we help our Parish return to a new normalcy as the Pandemic goes on and we start to plan for our future. I know it will be difficult to reach out in person, like we would at worship, coffee hours, dinners and meetings pre-COVID, but there are still phones, emails and the USPS to use now. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and dreams for our Parish.

And as we move forward, please remember those who are alone or who could use a call or a note. Reach out and keep in touch and let them know that they are in the thoughts and prayers of others. Our TeleCare Ministry does a wonderful job for our St. Francis Parish.

For those of you attending our worship services, live or online, help me extend our thanks to all the volunteers who are serving regardless of weather. To our acolytes, readers, ushers, greeters, Altar Guild, video and sound staff, as well as our wonderful clergy and Deacon, thank you for helping us enjoy such beautiful time worshipping our Lord.

I cannot close without extending a huge THANK YOU to Wayne North for the outstanding job he did as Senior Warden. From Acolyte and Reader, committee member and chairman to Senior Warden, he accomplished them all to perfection. May he continue to be in the Lord's watchful care and love.

In Christ,

Julie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Notes

OUTGOING AND INCOMING ST. FRANCIS
JUNIOR WARDENS

One agenda item at the January 24 Annual Meeting included the recognition of Julie Reppenhagen, the very productive 2020 and outgoing Junior Warden (see Annual Report). Elected to succeed her for 2021 was Dr. Kristi Menix, St. Francis parishioner and permanent resident of Green Valley. Thank you,

Julie, for your great efforts and many accomplishments in collaboration with St. Francis sextons and volunteers in 2020. Kristi looks forward to picking up the 2021 care of the St. Francis physical plant and grounds.

Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

Tax Assistance

Free tax assistance will be available at St. Francis once again this year, this time through VITA instead of AARP, and *by appointment only*.

The St. Francis tax site will operate every Monday from February 15 through March 19. Clients are asked to drive up to the signs in the REAR parking lot, complete an intake sheet and leave that sheet and their tax documents with a VITA volunteer at the site.

Tax documents will be given to a counselor for preparation of the return, then on to another counselor for Quality Review. If any questions arise, the preparer or reviewer will contact the client at the phone number listed on the client's intake sheet.

When the tax return is completed, client(s) will be called and asked to return to the site to review the completed tax return. After that, the tax return will be e-filed with the IRS and the applicable state(s). *For married couples, only one member can be present when completing the initial paperwork. This is a Covid precaution.*

When the tax return is completed, both members will need to sign the final paperwork.

Appointments for completing the information sheet and dropping off tax documents will be available on Mondays between 10 AM and NOON.

PLEASE NOTE: St. Francis tax site scheduling will be handled by VITA's central scheduling facility in Tucson. Please call 520-329-3818 for an appointment. Please DO NOT call the Parish Office for this appointment!

For further information on the St. Francis tax site, please contact Pat Murphy at 520-460-2011.



Name That Tune

In 1933 the Oxford University Press published a revised edition of The English Hymnal. The first edition, published in 1906, was edited by The Rev. Percy Dearmer and English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. The Preface to the 1933 edition, written by Vaughan Williams, caused a bit of a stir. In it Vaughan Williams says “The usual argument in favor of bad music is that the fine tunes are doubtless ‘musically correct,’ but that the people want ‘something simple.’ Now the expression ‘musically correct’ has no meaning; the only ‘correct’ music is that which is beautiful and noble.” He goes on in the next paragraph to say “It is indeed a moral rather than a musical issue.” That statement we will set aside for another time (Vaughan Williams also said that “it requires a certain effort to tune oneself to the moral atmosphere implied by a fine melody...”) and a wider discussion.

Vaughan Williams ranks as one of the greatest composers of the twentieth century. Many will know him by his landmark work for string orchestra *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*, a work of truly incandescent power. We know him in the Church as the composer of the hymn tunes DOWN AMPNEY (Come down, O Love divine), KING’S WESTON (At the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow), and—the greatest of them all—SINE NOMINE (For all the Saints who from their labors rest). The famous ‘Alleluia’ at the end of each stanza of SINE NOMINE can be heard gloriously transformed in Vaughan Williams’ Symphony No. 5 in D Major, a work I highly recommend.

The success of Vaughan Williams’ hymn tunes is of course due in part to the texts with which they are associated and, even more to the point, that tune and text come together in a satisfying whole. Tunes and texts are, as you doubtless know, interchangeable. All you have to do is find words that fit the metre of the tune. *For all the Saints* can, for example, be sung to the tune SARUM by Joseph Barnby, a composer who specialized in dreary hymn tunes. Bishop How’s great text takes on the dull (and doubtless ‘musically correct’) character of Barnby’s tune when the two are put together. Vaughan Williams never faltered; Barnby almost always did.

Vaughan Williams wasn’t the only significant

twentieth century composer of hymn tunes of course. As we enter the Lenten/Passiontide seasons, let me recommend another great wedding of tune and text, number 458 in our hymnal, *My song is love unknown*, text by Samuel Crossman (1624-83) and tune by John Ireland (1879-1962). Ireland’s tune, LOVE UNKNOWN, is on a par with RVW’s great tunes and, in fact, is reminiscent somewhat of his style. Ireland didn’t write symphonies—RVW wrote nine—concentrating instead on smaller forms. He wrote several important liturgical pieces and one ‘classic’ anthem, *Greater Love Hath No Man*. If you have a hymnal, take a look at number 458. We’ll be singing it for you in Lent. *Gerald*

Grief Support Group

We will once again be sponsoring a series of Grief Support Groups at St. Francis. The first session will begin on Tuesday, 2 February, and run five consecutive Tuesdays from 1:30 - 3:30 PM. If you or anyone you know might be interested in attending, the group is open to the community, is non-denominational, has no charge, and is facilitated by Jeannie North. For additional information call 520-399-9208.

Covenant Fund

Thanks to the COVID pandemic we were not able this year to schedule our traditional Christmas Card Party, the annual event that raises money for the St. Francis Covenant Fund. The fund—administered by the Rector—was established in 1993 by Dorothy Baldwin to provide temporary financial aid for needy St. Francis Parishioners.

The need is still with us, pandemics notwithstanding, and you can do your part to relieve the suffering by dropping off a check to Finance Officer Deborah Harby, or you can contribute online through the Parish website. The need this year is even greater, so please help if you can.



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!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Margaret Murphy
- 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 John Packer
- 10 Diane Schwarzmann
- 11 Ken Breitenbucher
- 11 Pris Junggren
- 11 Barbara Maxwell
- 12 Arliene Stremming
- 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
- 25 Lee Cornelison
- 25 Helen Mullaly

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

Our Parish History

While planning the celebration of St. Francis in the Valley's 50th anniversary many documents, pictures and memories were donated by the congregation. We would like to continue collecting these important documents in order to have a complete record of the development of the Parish. How can you help? There are many ways. See what you have to donate from your own collection of memories. This will include your personal thoughts, pictures of events, and your story with the Parish. There will be a container available Sundays mornings to receive your submissions. We need everyone's help in making this project a success. Thanks in advance, Joyce Davison (jadglen-dale@gmail.com)



WHILE HE WAITED for the great flood to begin, Noah had to house the various animals. He built a special eight-foot-high enclosure for the two kangaroos, but during their first night in the fence they escaped. Noah found them hopping around outside the following morning. So he increased the height of the fence to 15 feet, but the kangaroos escaped again.

Exasperated, he added another 15 feet to the enclosure. The kangaroos still escaped. After Noah put the 'roos back inside the fence, they were approached by one of the giraffes. "How high do you think Noah will build the fence this time?" the giraffe asked.

"I don't know," answered the female kangaroo. "But he might eventually get it to 1,000 feet if he keeps leaving the gate unlocked."

Altar Flowers

Would you like to sponsor Altar flowers 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.

St. Francis Parish Choir

The COVID 19 pandemic has been hard on choral groups—and especially on church choirs. The rather unfair sign hung on us as 'super-spreaders,' producing little more than fear, has brought many parish music programs to a standstill. In spite of all this a few of our members here at St. Francis are meeting to rehearse during the week in order to at least fortify congregational singing. All necessary precautions are observed: masks, distancing, etc. If you would like to join us, get in touch with Music Director Gerald Near through the Parish Office (625-1370) or via email at gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org.

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.

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



2021 Parish Statistics

Transfers In

000

New Members by Confirmation or Reception

000

Transfers Out

000

Deaths

Max Mayes
Nancy Gardner
Kathy Helgeson

Amazon Smile

If you purchase goods from Amazon.com (and who doesn't?), a percentage of the price can be sent to your favorite charity (or church - hint, hint) as a donation. All you have to do is sign up for Amazon Smile. Talk about easy money! Try it.

Meeting Rooms are Open for Parish Use

Church remains closed for worship, but our meeting rooms are available for small church groups to meet carefully for church business. We are still not open for community use groups. Here are the guidelines to host a meeting:

1. Contact Beth-el Klein via St. Francis' phone number 520-625-1370 to schedule the date, time and room for your meeting. Beth-el will arrange for the Sextons to sanitize the room before and after use.

2. Up to 10 people may participate in the meeting. Participants will wear masks and maintain social distance while on church premises.

Clergy Discretionary Funds

Donations to Clergy Discretionary Funds are always welcome; these funds help us to offer assistance to people in our community who are struggling. Because of your generosity, we've been able to help people with such things as food, gas, utilities, rent, school clothing, school supplies, unexpected medical bills and burial expenses. As we see it, it's not the clergy being able to help people in need, it's all of us, together, touching the lives of people who feel like they've hit a dead end due to adverse circumstances in life. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Do we have...

your@e-mail.address?

Imago Dei Middle School

The Covid-19/Pandemic has had a significant impact on graduation planning at Imago Dei Middle School; St. Francis has shared a partnership with Imago Dei for the past nine years. This year, twenty-three parish parishioners have contributed nearly \$3,000 to the Graduation Gift Fund and carry the distinction of being recognized as this year's "Honorary Grandparents!"

We will publicize the rescheduling of a date and location for the school's Commencement Exercises as soon as this information is available.

Wayne North

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
600 South La Cañada Drive
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