



# 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. 62, No. 1

January/February 2025

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

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## Words From Warren . . .

Dear Friends,  
Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a chance to celebrate Christmas and New Years with family or friends. It's hard to believe we are now in 2025!

The beginning of a new year is like a clean slate offering new opportunities. For some, it is a chance to put aside last year's difficulties, health challenges or losses, and start fresh.

Many of you have put away the decorations or are waiting till Epiphany before packing them away. However, once the symbols of Christmas are gone, our Christian work begins.

One of my favorite poems, which I shared on Christmas Eve, was written by Howard Thurman. Many of you are familiar with it:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost  
to heal the broken  
to feed the hungry  
to release the prisoner  
to rebuild the nations  
to bring peace among the people  
to make music in the heart.  
~Howard Thurman*

The birth of Jesus was just the beginning. Jesus came into our world because of God's love for us (John 3:16). That love was shared throughout Jesus' life and ministry in which He taught us that we are to serve others with the same love and selflessness that he shared.

The poem echoes the words of scripture when Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth in Luke 4:16-21. In many ways it became his mission statement for ministry, which we will hear over the next couple of months.

The worship and ministries we do in Jesus' Name need to be seen and lived through the lens of Howard Thurman's words, "to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the

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*Words From Warren, continued*

prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart." That is our calling as Christians and Franciscans.

As we begin this new year of 2025, let us remember our calling. We are to help uplift each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, but we are also to reach out beyond our church walls and help uplift and transform the lives of people in our community and beyond.

May God grant us the vision and empower us through the Holy Spirit to live into our calling as Christians.

Blessings and peace,

*Fr. Warren*

## Franciscan Focus

IMAGO DEI MIDDLE SCHOOL

As a retired teacher, I still hold a soft spot in my heart for kids and schools. So, when the opportunity to serve as the Vestry liaison to Imago Dei Middle School presented itself during my Vestry tenure, I was happy to volunteer. Shortly after assuming the liaison role, Cameron Taylor, Head of School, spoke at a Lenten soup supper and invited interested folks to come and visit the school. I called him the next day to set up a visit and had the same feeling as many of you who have visited the school have had, which is to say, "WOW!" I was impressed at every turn—by the school values of respect, responsibility, honesty, and excellence posted everywhere, by the friendliness of the scholars, as the students are called, and how articulate they are, by the food bank pantry that serves the families, by the graduate support center where graduates have a place to hang out or get help, by the small classes and the engagement of the students, by the fact that the school is tuition free for students, and by the overall atmosphere of caring and the commitment to breaking the cycles of poverty through quality education. The school is truly a mission of love, as well as peace and justice. Franciscan values are in action everywhere! Imago Dei Middle School is creating a brighter future and making a difference for its 88 scholars, their families, the Tucson community, and beyond.

I am pleased to also serve on the Board of Trustees

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**Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church**

600 South La Cañada Drive, Green Valley AZ 85614

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[www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz](http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz)

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in the world.*

for Imago Dei and invite anyone interested in learning more to visit the school or check out their website at [imagodeischool.org](http://imagodeischool.org). There are many opportunities to become involved in the school—volunteering at the school or for one time activities, such as judging the science fair, becoming a pen pal with a student (most have never received a letter!), or through a charitable or tax-credit donation. Please reach out to me for more information if you are interested.

*Barbara Bundy*

## Upcoming in February

February is Black History month. This year we have two special events.

The first event will be on Sunday February 2, 2025, when we welcome guest preacher, Ms. Brenda Paulin, who will be speaking about Absalom Jones, the first African American Episcopal priest, ordained in 1802.

Brenda, a cradle episcopalian, is a native of Washington, D.C. and grew up at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the first Black Episcopal church established in the nation's capital in 1879 by The Rev. Alexander Crummell.

Brenda moved to the Bay area in the early 70's and attended St. Cuthbert's Episcopal church where she served a term on the vestry. In the early 90's she joined St. Augustine's in Oakland where she currently worships.

She has served on St. Augustine's vestry, as an altar guild member, St. Monnica's guild member and as an eucharist minister.

She is currently a deanery representative, has served as a member of Diocesan Executive Council (secretary), as a member of Diocesan Standing Committee, and is currently a member of the Diocesan resolutions committee. Most recently she served as co-chair of the Bishop's search and transition committee that put forth the Diocese of California's new bishop, Austin K. Rios.

Brenda is a Life Member of the Union of Black Episcopalians and is a past president and actively involved in the Northern California/Viv-

ian Traylor Chapter and is a member of the Diocesan Afro-Anglican Commission.

In her spare time, she is SUCCEEDING BY READING Associate Program Coordinator for CHILDREN RISING, an Oakland education nonprofit.

Following the service on February 2, Ms. Paulin will be doing a forum and presentation in the Parish Hall during the coffee time.

The second event for Black History month will be a four-session study on Howard Thurman led by The Rev. Judy Turberg. These will be held on Wednesdays beginning February 5 at 1 PM. Location of the study, whether the Parish Hall or other room is still to be determined. A sign up will be available. *Fr. Warren*

## Parish Choir

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

## How to Access Service Videos

Go to the Parish website ([www.stfrancisgvaz.org](http://www.stfrancisgvaz.org)), on the "HOME" page, scroll down to the bottom of the page where you will see the current video, click on the arrow ▶ green "Livestream" box to start the video, and enjoy!

## Parish Offices will be closed...

Martin Luther King Day	Monday, 20 January
Presidents' Day	Monday, 17 February

## Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharistic celebrations are scheduled for January 11 and February 8 at 4 PM in the Parish Hall.

## Prayer Chain

For Prayer Chain requests contact Jim Ratley at 253-365-5093 or, via email, at [jnrats@gmail.com](mailto:jnrats@gmail.com).

## Senior Warden's Thoughts

We are standing at the threshold of a new year, and I think it gives us a new opportunity to enrich our lives at St Francis and move forward. Let me congratulate you on the great amount of effort that so many of you put into making the Festival a success. It may not have raised a lot of money for Outreach, but it brought many of you out to tackle the challenges of a new venture, and the public reception was wonderful. We have an opportunity in the new year to add to that spirit, and hopefully we will come up with new ideas and interactions that bring us closer to each other, and also build a community which those who come to seek us out find to their liking and makes them want to be part of us. And I know that I've preached this before, but it cannot be overemphasized that our warmth toward new faces on their first visit is the overwhelming reason why they will return or not. So continue to be aware of visitors, and treat them with all kindness and cordiality, for "they'll know we are Christians by our love."

*Gary LaBarre*, Senior Warden

## Social Activities Team

### JANUARY/FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

The Social Activities Team (SAT) is planning a quiet January and therefore is cancelling the January Epiphany Party plans as it falls right after a very busy December.

On February 16, join us after church for a **VALENTINE'S PARTY COFFEE HOUR**. What a happy way to celebrate a Sunday and enjoy a second Valentine's Day.

On Saturday, February 22, we are planning an **INTERNATIONAL DINNER** from 5 to 7 PM. People will sign up for a team and the team will choose a country to showcase. Each team will decide what food to make and how to decorate their table representing that country. What a great way to get to know new friends and learn about other countries. More to come.

For all our SAT events, the sign-up sheets will be in the Parish Hall on Sundays or call or visit

the office during the week.

If you'd like to help out with any of our activities, contact Tisha Stril at [tishastril@gmail.com](mailto:tishastril@gmail.com) or Julie Reppenhagen at [jrepp@snet.net](mailto:jrepp@snet.net). Your Social Activities Team looks forward to seeing you all. ❀

## Heart & Hands

HEART AND HANDS has had a busy November and December. A big shout out and hearty thanks to St. Francis' Christmas Elves. There is amazing joy in giving. Green Valley Assistance clients were surprised by the 49 gift bags you filled. Local fire fighters delivered them with a Christmas turkey to celebrate the day. Children of the Pasqua Yaqui Nation were able to choose and wrap fantastic gifts for their parents and grandparents at the boutique store supplied by you and St. Philips. The children and various family had a great time at the **ANGEL TREE** party Saturday, December 21. All the Franciscans who joined the party had even more fun.

Thank you for your gifts of time during this busy season and your generous gifts of treasure, almost \$1,900 and your talent which shines in all you do.

▶ **SISTER JOSE'S WOMEN'S SHELTER:** The shelter accepts donations of sneakers as well as unused hotel size personal items. Women not staying at the shelter can also go to the shelter to shower, wash their clothes and have a meal. Follow the expansion project which is adding more rooms, bathrooms and expanded dining room on their Facebook and Instagram sites. Money donations are always welcome.

▶ **FOOD BANKS:** The food bank is requesting canned meat products, vegetables, fruits, soups, and tomato products (low sodium, if possible). You can deposit your donations in the boxes outside the Parish Hall, one at the front door and another at the south door near the Chapel. Your offerings will be blessed on the first Sunday of each month.

▶ The Sahuarita Food Bank collects cardboard,



including cereal box styles as well as clean milk cartons. The receptacle is located on the south side of the Food Bank, beside the Good Shepherd Church on La Cañada.

► Bring your Reusable grocery bags and Dollar Store bags and put them in the KINO box in Donations room. These bags will be put to good use by people returning home to Mexico. They could also use travel sized hygiene products, especially bar soap.

Money is always welcome for any of our ministries—simply write your check payable to St. Francis with the ministry name in the memo line and we'll take care of the rest. Drop your check in the Offering Basket on Sunday morning, or drop it off at the Parish Office during the week.

And most importantly—if you have a Passion for a Ministry—bring your voice to a Heart and Hands meeting the third Monday of the month at 10 AM in Meeting Room 2 across the hall from the Library. Money is always welcome for any of our ministries; simply write your check payable to St. Francis with the ministry name in the memo line and we'll take care of the rest. Drop your check in the Offering Basket on Sunday morning, or drop it off at the Parish Office during the week. ✝

## Bible Study

The WOMEN OF THE BIBLE class will continue, starting January 14, and will run for 7 weeks. The class will be held in the Parish Hall from 10:30 AM to 12 PM. If you were in the Fall class, you do not need to do anything, just show up on January 14. If you wish to join the class, please email Mike Kuebler at [mikelkuebler@yahoo.com](mailto:mikelkuebler@yahoo.com). Sending an email allows Mike to easily create an email class list. Please include your phone number in your email.

## Handbells

The St. Francis Handbell Ensemble is back in session. We need a few more people to ring with us. If you would like to learn to play handbells, please join our ensemble. If you are interested, please contact Handbell Director Sophia Witte at 520-509-5037 or [smw\\_witte@yahoo.com](mailto:smw_witte@yahoo.com). ✝

## Boutique News

Thanks so much to all our parishioners who shopped in St. Francis' Boutique during the holidays. As we welcome in 2025, we hope you will continue to remember the Boutique when you're looking for a gift for a special person or wanting something new for yourself! We celebrate all the Seasons, as well as having items made by our own parishioners—fusion glass, pottery, wood carvings and paintings. We also offer St. Francis statuary and beautiful Anglican Rosaries. You're always welcome to come in and look around after the 9 o'clock service when we're always open. You'll see that we offer unique, beautiful merchandise at better prices than you'll find elsewhere and to make it even better, please know that when you buy in the Boutique, you are helping the needy in our Green Valley Community as all Boutique profits go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Boutique Managers/Volunteers are Wendy Hill, Jylene Wright, Annette Leibovitch, Jill Mulligan, and Carolyn Moorehead. We look forward to seeing you soon! *Jylene Wright*

## Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St. Francis in the Valley Parish will be held Sunday, January 26, at 11:30 AM. All parishioners are invited to attend.

## Gourmet Table

Thank you all for the beautiful gifts of goodies for the Festival of Trees Gourmet table. Because of you and your helping hands the sale was a great success. Bless you all. *Sharon Thornby and Marie Miller*

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Jim Bush
- 3 - Chris Anderson
- 3 - Leroy Vaughn
- 6 - Stephen North
- 6 - Carol Wingereid
- 7 - Mary Messick
- 10 - Robert Marben
- 13 - Shirlee Schappach
- 14 - Jay Adams
- 14 - Stephen Huhta
- 14 - Paula Moore
- 19 - James Collins
- 19 - Lincoln Mastandrea
- 21 - Alan Cram
- 21 - Stephanie Huszar
- 22 - Penny Junke
- 23 - Linda Berg
- 26 - Jan Misner
- 27 - John Smith
- 29 - James Moore
- 30 - John Burk
- 30 - Jan Poole
- 30 - Katherine Vint

## January ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 - George & Chris Anderson
- 28 - Joseph & Kathleen Chidester
- 30 - Tripp, Charles & Marsha

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Alice Walker
- 3 - Tony Mariscal
- 4 - Patty Russell
- 5 - Theresa Bonser
- 5 - Fred Junggren
- 5 - Barry Sheridan
- 6 - Joyce Hayes
- 6 - Jenica Hisko
- 6 - Sharlyn Matthews
- 7 - Joyce Remillard
- 7 - Wilfrid Wiemer
- 8 - Frances Gordon
- 8 - John Packer
- 10 - Christie Kuebler
- 10 - Mike Kuebler
- 10 - Diane Schwarzmann
- 11 - Ken Breitenbucher
- 11 - Pris Junggren
- 12 - Arliene Stremming

- 14 - Donna Tolbert
- 14 - Roger Ward
- 15 - Annette Mariscal
- 15 - Caroline Walton
- 16 - Kathleen Keller
- 18 - Ellie Paredes-Garcia
- 19 - Jeannie North
- 20 - Victor Chavez
- 20 - Janis Gallagher
- 20 - Joan Jakubiak
- 22 - Shirley Law
- 25 - Helen Mullaly

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 - Arnie Berglund & Darlene Gregory
- 02 - Mike & Christie Kuebler
- 04 - Jack & Barbara Bundy
- 04 - Victor & Terri Chavez
- 13 - Mitch & Pat Ghoca
- 14 - Tom & Gloria Cadwalader
- 16 - Bruce Folkers, & Jan Gaylord



## Video Reflections

Fr. Warren provides short weekly Psalm video reflections. They are updated Thursdays on Facebook and YouTube. Past videos back to March 2020 are also available.

THE  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



## PARISH GROUP MEETINGS

**Altar Guild:** meetings called as necessary

**Border Ministry:** meetings called as necessary

**Daughters of the King:** 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 9:45 AM in the Vulliamy Room

**Finance Committee:** meetings called as necessary

**Green Team:** meetings called as necessary

**Handbell Ensemble:** Mondays, 10 AM in the Choir Loft

**Heart & Hands (Outreach):** 3rd Monday, 10 AM in the Conference Room

**Memorials and Special Gifts:** 2nd Wednesday, 10 AM in the St. Francis Room

**Men's Group:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 9 AM in the Conference Room

**Parish Choir:** Thursdays, 2 PM in the Choir Loft

**Prison Ministry:** meetings called as necessary

**Saint Francis Trust:** meetings called as necessary

**Social Activities Team:** 4th Monday, 2:30 PM in the Conference Room

**Stephen Ministry:** meetings called as necessary

**Stewardship Committee:** meetings called as necessary

**Vestry:** 2nd Tuesday, 4 PM in the Conference Room

Parish meetings and events are listed in the announcements section of Sunday service leaflets and, via email, in NEWS FROM THE PEWS. If you would like to be added to the email list, contact Finance Officer Deborah Harby (*deborah@stfrancisgvaz.org*) 520-625-1370.

## 2024 Parish Statistics

### NEW MEMBERS BY CONFIRMATION OR RECEPTION

Caylee Sue Malone  
Dave Egan  
Melody Anderson

### TRANSFERS IN

Judy Davis  
Jim & Nancy McGuire  
Jill Mulligan  
John Stephenson  
James & Paula Moore

Dorothea Berke  
Miriam Berke  
Alida King

### TRANSFERS OUT

Judith M. Craig

### DEATHS

Louise Hursh  
Dick Kosnick  
Joan Henley  
Vince Remillard  
Norma Pool  
Charles Gardner  
Bobbie Lawson  
BrandE Faupell  
Barbara Workman  
Robert Bates  
The Rev. Pat Kirk  
Frances F. Mais



## Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for November, December, and January (2025) are available in the Parish Office during the week, and on Sunday mornings you can find them in the Parish Hall.



## La Joya Communion Service

A reminder to all residents of La Posada that we offer a weekly Service in the Celebration Room at La Joya. Gary La-Barre and Sophia Witte lead a weekly service of communion from the reserved sacrament. One of the clergy leads a service of Holy Eucharist once a month, usually the second Wednesday. You are welcome to attend even if you're not a La Posada resident.

## A Gift of Flowers

If you would like to give a gift of flowers to be placed on the High Altar in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for many blessings, please call Carol Berg at 520-373-5770 and let her know of your interest. If she is not at home, just leave a message with your name and phone number and she will return your call. Flower donation is \$35.

## 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 Office Manager Deborah Harby. 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 Deborah 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 sent via email to the COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE 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 sent via email to the COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE 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.

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