



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. 1

January 2021

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

From Fr. Warren . . .

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!! 2020 is now behind us!

Queen Elizabeth once noted in 1992, after several family disasters including a fire at Windsor Castle, that the year was *Annus Horribilis*, or a year of disaster or misfortune. Looking back at 2020, I think we could agree with that term.

Every year we celebrate the end of one year by ushering in a New Year with parties and fireworks. Typical of the current pandemic, we were subdued, perhaps a friend or two and a glass of a refreshment or two...shaken, not stirred.

Will 2021 be better? Yes, I believe it will be. Vaccines are now being distributed in the country. Most of us should have an opportunity to receive our vaccine in the next month or two. The night is passing away. A new dawn is upon us.

In the meantime, we still need to be responsible for each other by social distancing and wearing our masks. Once the virus is under control and positivity rates are very low, I know the Bishop will then encourage parishes to begin moving back into their churches. I am hoping that Easter will be a celebration in the church. Till that time, we continue to err on the side of caution and worship outside.

2021 will be a new year of possibilities. Once we get past the worst of the pandemic we will begin reestablishing our programs. Till that time, we can make a difference in our area by helping our local foodbank, assisting with utilities or rent if people have been affected by the pandemic, as well as providing for various needs for families down at the border.

If you can think of a local need or have an idea of how St. Francis can make a difference in our community, please let me, Fr. Nelson, or Fr. Ted Holt know. We may still be isolating and avoiding gatherings, but we can still support local needs. St. Francis of Assisi cared for those who could not always care for themselves or whom society ignored. As the Parish of St. Francis, we can step up to the plate and make a difference.

I hope you had a good holiday. We may have missed being with family and friends, but the message and hope of Christmas still rung out on Christmas Day!

Jesus was born into a world that needed healing and change. Now more than ever, we need a global healing. Please continue to pray for all who suffered and died, their families and friends, frontline workers, and for all who have suffered emotionally and spiritually. Healing is coming, let's continue to be patient and hopeful.

Blessings and Happy New Year!

Fr. Warren

Collecting History

Father Warren received pictures from The Rev. Sydney Cowlin step-son show activities about the church in the 1970. This has brought about an interest in continuing collecting facts about the history of our parish. The book FRANCIS OF ASSISI: his legacy for our future by William Davison Glover covers the first 50 years from 1966-2016. I hope with the help of all of you we can continue preserving the history of St. Francis in the Valley. This can be done by each of us looking through memorabilia we have at our homes. The idea is to collect whatever you have, even if you think it is too old to be included. Let whoever is interested in working on this project decide what is needed. What a wonderful way to spend the time remembering events and sharing those pictures, letters, newsletters and articles with the Parish for safe keeping.

As you find what you want to share please provide as much information about the article as you can. Names of those involved, dates, places, etc. are always needed so in the future anyone looking through the history will have the correct information.

As we start this project there will be a box available in the Parish Hall to collect the items. Please include your contact information. Everyone who wishes to help is more than welcome. Please contact me, Joyce Davison at jadglen-dale@gmail.com or Father Warren at frwarren@stfrancisgvas.org.

Embodied Bible Study

Starting on 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@stfrancisgvas.org

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

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Published monthly
except June & August by

Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church
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(520) 625-1370 – www.stfrancisgvas.org
www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvas

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Bishop

THE REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH
Rector

The Rev. Nelson Mendoza
Curate

The Rev. Becky Williamson
Deacon

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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*

DO A NEW THING

My friends and I used to have a saying that, “for every misused or misinterpreted Biblical quote, there is a home decor sign in some TJ Max, Ross, or Home Goods that matches it.”

Well, I think I found one that matches the feelings from 2020 and the vibes many of us want to carry into 2021.

Isaiah 43:18-19

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

It would be easy to sweep all of the hardships and the heavy things that happened during 2020 under a rug of the past and to move into 2021 with nothing but optimism and high energy. However, I think if we explore that Bible passage critically, it would be wise to understand that forgetting all former things or simply tossing aside old ways of doing would be a detriment to our learned experiences in moving forward.

We as people of God must understand that through God anything is possible. However, we must not discount the lived experiences that many of us have gone through in the past year. Many of us have lost loved ones, have experienced or are actively processing grief or trauma, and then there is also the joy. Because we are human, we are subject to the full spectrum of human ups and downs that happen in our lifetimes. From pandemic plagues to the joys of new experiences that bring us closer to God, we are all adventurers in this journey of life hoping that each new day uncovers some new revelation.

Moving into 2021 for many may just be a chronological shift forward, a time of forgetting to write “2021” instead of “2020” for a few days, weeks or months, but it is still a significant point in our lives. Many of us are setting new year’s goals or resolutions, new intentions for things we want to get accomplished in the new year. And all of that is good. I wonder, how might we all include a spiritual or faith goal for the new year?

Do you hope to spend more time in prayer? Maybe, find ways to participate digitally or remotely in a church ministry here at St. Francis? No matter your

goal, know that the new year does offer you the opportunity to begin anew. In fact, everyday and every moment is an opportunity to start afresh. You don’t need a ball drop or a calendar change to make changes in your life now.

So, as we all venture forth into the unknown of 2021, may you all have a safe and wonderful new year!

Blessings,

Nelson+



The Boutique is Open!

Our Talents Unlimited Boutique is open (by appointment only). Watch for the article in the December Newsletter for information on all the new and exciting items available and, remember, all proceeds go to Clergy Discretionary Funds. 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!

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.

Prayer Chain

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

Senior Warden's Notes

Just as I promised folks, here is the 6th chapter in our series on the ten most influential naval leaders as we continue to investigate the contributions they provided by way of the leadership examples they developed and lived by during their naval careers. Our reference for this series is Admiral James Stavridis' book titled *SAILING TRUE NORTH: Ten Admirals and the Voyage of Character*. It is with this knowledge that we might use these same characteristics of time-tested leadership principles in our own quest to develop the future leaders of our Parish.

This month we will be visiting the life and times of Admiral Lord John Arbuthnot Fisher, born in Ceylon in 1841 and dying in London in 1920. In his closing comments Admiral Stavridis adds that "if I could pick only one admiral to spend an evening with, it would be Jacky Fisher," the same Lord John Arbuthnot Fisher. "That combination of relentless perseverance and an unbounded desire to "seize the new" is very, very rare in leaders."

Born to a middle-class culture in Ceylon in 1841, he became part of a large family totaling eleven children, of which only seven survived infancy. Due to the financial crisis that family was rapidly approaching, Jackie Fisher was shipped over to his paternal grandparents in England at the young age of six, and he never saw his parents again; they both died a few years later. And what was found to be so unusual about Fisher was that his seniors above himself, his peers, and even himself, that all would agree that Fisher had very little going for him. Over the years Fisher became recognized as one of the most undiplomatic leaders in military history. He would never forego an opportunity to publicly chastise a contemporary and was quick to formulate a long history of confrontation and argumentation.

He began his naval career at the age of thirteen as a young naval cadet, and soon thereafter while serving aboard HMS *Calcutta*, fainted on his first day of duty while witnessing the flogging of a half dozen sailors. Soon promoted to midshipman, he was assigned to Asia duty known as China Station, where he became recognized as an expert navigator.

Naval aristocracy was not young Fisher's place in life. To compete, he learned to fight, and was found often complaining about how much more money he could be earning working in the private sector.

Even today this is still a hot topic in every branch of service.

With his reputation as an outstanding navigator, he was given command of a steam powered paddle gunboat, and was soon recognized as having a knack for sea duty, and a kind of level and steady confidence with both superiors and subordinates. He was quickly becoming the Royal Navy's best known and most discussed officer of his generation.

As the American Civil War was unfolding, Jacky Fisher moved over to the Royal Navy's training base in Portsmouth, where he began to develop new weapon delivery systems, and later in 1863 returned to sea as a gunnery officer in the Royal Navy's first armored battleship, HMS *Warrior*.

By 1876, Fisher was promoted to the rank of full captain, and over the next five years held command of six different warships. While command of so many ships was not unheard of, the quantity of command experiences and the quality of results consistently delivered, prepared him for command of HMS *Inflexible*, the Royal Navy's newest and the best equipped in their fleet.

Fisher's success, and with his reputation surrounding him, he quickly became a polarizing figure earning significant and ongoing support from the royal family. Offsetting the frequent tours at sea, his periods ashore were punctuated with numerous opportunities to create innovative ideas in new ship design, notably the submarine, while pushing the arguments for the development of undersea weapons technology including most notably the role of the torpedo.

In 1903, Fisher assumed command of the growing Portsmouth Naval Base, along with Lord Nelson's HMS *Victory* as his flagship. To get there, he first designed and implemented a new curriculum for the training of both engineers and deck officers to include more science and technology. Throughout the fleet, his impact was debated, but the changes he brought about created new intellectual capital in the officers of the fleet to match the changes he instituted in the ships they were to man and operate.

As career officers we often think of innovation as improvements in physical systems and specific equipment. But in many ways the most important innovations in any enterprise are the changes we make in how we prepare human beings to perform. Fisher was the rare leader of his time who fully un-

derstood the need to do both.

In an era when most ship captains and admirals were content to promote routine maintenance efforts, Fisher demanded realistic and dangerous combat-oriented training, insisting on nighttime drills, the use of real explosives, long hours to simulate the stress of combat, and physical fitness training to ensure peak readiness. All of the advances he drove were additive and resulted in a far higher level of overall British naval mastery at sea.

Fisher later used his powerful reputation to drive the design of two important and truly modern classes of ships. The first was the all-big-gun battleship. The second class was the faster but more lightly armored battle cruisers. HMS Dreadnought was the lead ship of the new battleship class, while HMS Invincible was the lead battle cruiser, both ships joining the fleet in 1907.

At the start of the First World War, Fisher was brought back to a combatant's role by the young, headstrong Winston Churchill. Fisher and Churchill were perhaps too much alike, and the cooperative relationship didn't last long. The relationship deteriorated rapidly over legitimate differences in strategic considerations for how the fleet would be deployed. Fisher tore himself away from the negotiation table with a strained and angry look on his face.

Over the course of his final half decade from 1915 until his death in 1920, Fisher continued to fight for new naval ideas from a variety of public platforms. Fisher had a fine voyage through life, always fighting against the odds, and almost always winning. He created significant change and is remembered with great respect in the Royal Navy.

Humble beginnings and physical shortcomings were the very foundations of Jacky Fisher's character. Joining the British Admiralty ran through the family; both Jacky and a younger brother Frederic became admirals, and all three daughters married naval officers each of whom became an admiral, as did his only son.

The defining character conflict of Jacky Fisher's life was the struggle between his massive ego, and his sincere devotion to the Royal Navy. Meanwhile, he was learning that watching his physical health is an act of character and can help with his ability to perform. He also learned that the best end to a disagreement is the creation of a win-win outcome.

A tool to consider in this regard is meditation, or simply finding time to quietly think about life while listening to good music.

Closely associated with this is the quality of optimism. Fisher was relentlessly upbeat and positive. And then there was the questing and relentless mind, endlessly asking the question, "Why can't we do that?" So often, the most defining issue of character is curiosity. One thing that Fisher constantly taught his subordinates was the mind that gets into the habit of asking questions is the mind that will learn more, accomplish more, and be satisfied more.

Next month we will visit the life and times of The Admiral's Admiral, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

Wayne North, Senior Warden

Portions of my text contain material taken directly from Admiral James Stavridis' book titled *SAILING TRUE NORTH: TEN ADMIRALS AND THE VOYAGE OF CHARACTER*, Copyright © 2019 by James Stavridis, and reprinted with permission from the book's publishers, Penguin Random House LLC

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 contribute to it by dropping off a check to Finance Officer Deborah Harby (she's nice; it says so on her door) or you can contribute online through the Parish website. The need this year is even greater, so please help if you can.

Parish Offices will be closed . . .

Martin Luther King Day

Monday, 18 January

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!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bart DallMura
- 2 Jim Bush
- 3 Chris Anderson
- 3 Walter Glaser
- 3 Leroy Vaughn
- 5 Peter Murphy
- 6 Stephen North
- 6 Carol Wingereid
- 7 Pat Ashley
- 7 Sue Howell
- 7 Mary Messick
- 7 Margaret Sampson
- 8 Katherine Barnes
- 10 Robert Marben
- 12 Colville Smythe
- 13 Shirlee Schappach
- 13 Scott Whiteside
- 14 Jay Adams
- 14 Stephen Huhta
- 15 Kathy Ravine
- 16 Nancy Hickman
- 19 James Collins
- 19 BrandE Faupell
- 21 Stephanie Huszar
- 23 Linda Berg
- 23 Teddi Byrd
- 23 Roberta Gavin
- 24 Lanny Helgeson
- 24 Nancy Kerns
- 26 Jan Misner
- 27 John Smith
- 28 William Peissig
- 30 John Burk
- 30 Jan Poole
- 30 Robert Vint
- 30 Katherine Vint
- 31 Judith Gross

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 George & Chris Anderson
- 02 Gary & Anita Jacobs
- 05 Wayne & Jeannie North
- 11 Bill & Alicia Baucom
- 14 Barney & Vanita Foster
- 14 Colville & Sylvia Smythe
- 28 Joseph & Kathleen Chidester
- 29 Robert & Grace Marben
- 30 Charles & Marsha Tripp

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.

Annual Parish Meeting

It's ANNUAL PARISH MEETING time! You won't want to miss yet another exciting and stimulating Parish Meeting, so mark your calendars for sometime on 24 January 2021. The usual cast of characters will be present (at least ‘virtually’) to entertain you and bring you up to speed with pertinent information concerning all aspects of Parish life at St. Francis.

Now then: if you are responsible for an annual report for the Annual Report, please be sure your copy is complete and sent via email to the Parish Administrator (gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org) by Tuesday, 12 January 2021 (you don't want him coming after you). Please send copy (without formatting) as a Word document or, alternatively, type it into the body of an email.

Handbells Anyone?

St. Francis Handbell Ensemble will resume rehearsals beginning Tuesday, December 1, at 1:30 PM in the Choir Loft. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Sophia Witte at 520-509-5037 or e-mail her at smw_witte@yahoo.com. We had a small group that got together to play for Fr. Colville's last service at St. Francis, and we decided at that time that we would like to continue rehearsing. We are able to social distance in the Loft. Masks are required.

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.

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.



2020 Parish Statistics

Transfers In

The Rev. Becky Williamson
Sue Moody

New Members by

Confirmation or Reception

Donald & Faith Misner
Gary & Anita Jacobs
Ric Pike

Transfers Out

Norm & Pat Fisher

Deaths

George Haight
Richard Sampson
Jackie Springer
William Jones
Carol (Haskins) McPhetres
Susan Meislahn
James Edward Richey
Edna Manahan
Sue Moody
Charlie Reppenhagen
Kim Kessing
Alex Stoffel
Tad Bird
Bill Schnelle

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
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