



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. 59, No. 1

January 2022

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

Words From Warren . . .

Dear Friends,

JANUARY 2022 EPIPHANY

*We will open the book. Its pages are blank.
We are going to put words on them ourselves.
The book is called Opportunity and
its first chapter is New Year's Day.
~Edith Lovejoy Pierce*

A New Year is an exciting time. No matter how a previous year unfolded, we hold onto a hope that the coming year will allow us to begin fresh and anew. The image that comes to mind is one of holding a newborn baby, innocent and full of life, with a whole lifetime of possibilities ahead.

As we begin 2022, we all pray that the Covid 19 will be behind us and that life can get back to a semblance of normality. That was the same hope we held one year ago as vaccinations were just beginning to be administered, but we have a way to go.

While life has improved significantly, Covid 19 still exists and the new Omicron variant has spread like wildfire. Yet we are not in the same position as we were in January 2021. Those who are vaccinated and have had booster shots are at less risk of severe illness. As of the writing of this article the FDA has approved an anti-viral drug which will significantly reduce the illness in those who have the virus. Our arsenal to fight this dreaded virus is increasing. Is the end in sight? Time will tell. It is my prayerful hope that next year at this time we can say the virus is defeated!

With all we have been through I am encouraged by the *heart and spirit* of our parish family. We are a church that even in times of hardship and restrictions continues to seek ways to help people locally and beyond Green Valley. We have never stopped striving to be the heart and hands of Jesus through our caring and pastoral ministries.

2022 will be a year to grow into the image of our Patron Saint, Francis of Assisi. We are blessed to be called the parish of St. Francis. This new year will allow us to go deeper into what it means to fashion ourselves and ministries into the image of St. Francis, who himself lived the Gospel message and helped people experience a taste of the Kingdom of God in their lives.

I pray that 2022 will be a year of growth and discovery as we move through the pandemic. May the light of Christ glow brightly in and through us as we seek new ways to connect with our community sharing the hope, love, teachings and healing of Jesus with all who we encounter.

Peace and Happy New Year!

Fr. Warren

Words from Fr. Nelson ...

IN MEMORIUM OF 2020/2021

A poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

In Memoriam, [Ring out, wild bells]

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.
Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

A friend shared this poem with me as we began talking about the experiences we've had the past 20+ months of surviving during a pandemic. Much like the poem, we have all lived a saga worthy of the prose of a modern-day poet. We have all experienced the ringing out and the ringing in of various things in our lives.

In thinking about this poem, what stands out to you the most? I think it speaks to each individual in a different way and for me, unsurprisingly, the last stanza evokes a particular sense of connection.

"The larger heart, the kindlier hand; ring out the dark-
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600 South La Cañada Drive, Green Valley AZ 85614

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www.facebook.com/stfranciscgvaz

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THE REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH

Rector

The Rev. Nelson Mendoza

Curate

The Rev. Becky Williamson

Deacon

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Sandy Eckstein, Janie Hessong, Glenn Matto,

Helen Mullaly, Vince Remillard, Cheryl Tardy-Albin

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Lead Sexton

Clarke Green

Sexton

The mission of

St. Francis in the Valley,

Green Valley,

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

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ness of the land, Ring in the Christ that is to be."

To me, this is a reminder of our basic foundation of why we follow Christ. We love our neighbor and in doing so we make the world, the land, a place filled with more light. In following Christ and ringing in the new year with Jesus in our hearts and mind, we are co-creating a better world for ourselves and others.

As we begin 2022, what are some of the things you will be "ringing out" and hoping to "ring in?" How will you be ringing in the Christ that is to be?

Nelson+

St. Francis Boutique

It's easy shopping at our Boutique, now open on Wednesdays from 10 AM until 2 PM and on Sundays following the service. We continue to get new, unique items for sale and all are reasonably priced. So come take a look, knowing that whatever you buy is going to help those in need in our community via the Rector's Discretionary Fund. It's a win/win for all when you buy in the Boutique. *Jylene Wright*

Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for November and December (2021) and January (2022) are available in the Parish Office during the week, and on Sunday mornings you can find them in the Parish Hall as well as the Office.

Home Communion

St. Francis is again offering home communion to parishioners unable to attend church services. If you would like a Lay Eucharistic Volunteer to bring you the Sacrament, please contact Deacon Becky (480-204-0022) or via email (1beckyw@cox.net).

Monday Morning Prayer

Looking for a great way to start your week? Consider joining the Monday Morning Prayer group at 9 am on, you guessed it, Mondays. The Prayer Book service—led by some of your fellow parishioners—offers prayers for all needs, earthly and heavenly, in a quiet and reverent atmosphere.

Say 'Hello' to ...



Gail Ryer: "I was born and raised in Memphis TN, but spent most of my life in Western

Washington. I retired from teaching English and Social Studies after 35 years, but missed it and substituted for a while. After losing my husband to lung cancer, my daughter and I moved to Sahuarita to be close to my other daughter. I love gardening, reading, going out to dinner and movies with friends, and hope to make more here as the pandemic quietens down."



Libby Trainor: "I've just moved from New Hampshire to this beautiful State, leaving behind my three children on the East Coast and in India. I have been

a flight attendant for three major airlines, developed my own alteration business, worked in retail and as a paraprofessional in elementary school. It's a pleasure to be here meeting so many kind and wonderful people in this welcoming church."

Handbell Ensemble

Our Handbell Ensemble is now rehearsing in the Choir Loft on Tuesdays at 10 AM and new members are welcome. Just contact Sophia Witte by text at 520-509-5037 or email at smw_witte@yahoo.com.

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 always welcome. Get in touch with the Choirmaster at gerald@stfrancis-gvaz.org.

Prayer Chain

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

Senior Warden's Thoughts

Wishing you a Happy and Joyous 2022. As I write this, I am overwhelmed with the outlook for the COVID and OMICRON viruses for the upcoming Winter months being expressed by our medical experts. With the predicted increase of cases, we must all be acutely aware of our own health and that of family and friends around us. The St. Francis Vestry and staff will be monitoring changes in safety precautions both in our place of worship and our meeting spaces. Please work with us to ensure the good health of everyone.

We are planning our Annual Meeting for Sunday, January 23, at 10:30 AM after our Sunday worship Service. Remember to get your pledge in, so we can finalize the budget. We hope you'll join us to hear what was accomplished, in spite of COVID.

I sincerely hope, as you plan for the year ahead, that you'll consider stepping forward to serve at your church. There are lots of programs we would like to add or increase and many committees that need your help. Our Sunday worship needs Acolytes and Readers and folks to Usher and others to Greet and welcome our worshipers and visitors each Sunday. And we train you, too. Volunteering is a very rewarding experience. Contact our Office to sign up 520-625-1370.

We look forward to celebrating 2022 with you all. May it be a Blessed and Happy year. Please stay safe until we meet again.

In Christ,
Jullie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Notes

St. Francis celebrated its hard working and dedicated long term grounds care volunteers, March work party grounds volunteers, and sexton staff on Sunday, November 14, 2021. Junior Warden, Kristi Menix, expressed gratitude to each volunteer and sexton for their giving of time and talent and "living as the heart and hands of Christ in the world" (Mission of St. Francis in the Valley). Thank you, awe inspiring and humble ground team!

Following the appreciation event, St. Francis's beautiful Memorial Garden buzzed during an all-parish reception. Thank you, reception group, for your kind efforts to make the reception a great success!

Deana Bond, Lead Sexton and Clarke Green, Sexton, distributed thank you gifts to the 10 long-term

volunteers: green t-shirts with St. Francis logos and inscriptions and blue inscribed baseball caps for Chris Arundell, Mitch Ghoca, Reg Kahrimanis, Fred Keller, Gary LaBarre, Joyce Remillard, Vince Remillard, Arlienne Stremming, and Ann Tenpenney. Craig Reid, the Church's lead grounds volunteer, also received an inscribed, decorative stone showing appreciation for his 10 years of dedication in the "Garden of Weedin"! Additionally, appreciative words were directed to volunteers in the pews who made up a March 2021 grounds work party or made other ground care contributions: Barbara Bundy, Carol Wingereid, Cheryl Tardy-Albin, Fred Keller, Janie Hessong, Linda Hempel, Mitch Ghoca, Mark Eckstein and Sandy Eckstein, who also provided yummy refreshments, Nancy Tardy-Albin, Sue Wilson, John Colip, retired lead sexton, Julie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden, and Father Warren Leibovitch, Rector.

Bill Miller, Marie Miller, Thomasina Reid, Julie Reppenhaggen, Erik Ringkjøb, Carol Wingereid, and Sandy Eckstein, and Mark Eckstein graciously handled the reception. Mark and Sandy complemented the usual coffee hour cookies with other celebratory goodies. Thank you, All, for your kind efforts to make the reception a great success in celebrating our awe-inspiring and humble grounds team!

Kristi Menix, Junior Warden kmenix18@gmail.com

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church will be held Sunday, January 23, 2022, at 10:30 AM in the Parish Hall. You are most cordially invited to attend. If you are responsible for a report, please get it to the Parish Administrator via email (you can provide either a Word document or type your report into the body of an email) at gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org by Tuesday, January 18. The earlier the better, please.

Cruzando Fronteras Needs

Cruzando needs chap stick, small jars of Vicks, and white socks for children and adults. Look for the collection spot in the Parish Hall.

Parish Offices will be closed...

Martin Luther King Day

Monday, 17 January

Your Arizona Tax Credit Options

We are so fortunate in the state of Arizona to be able to direct our own tax dollars to schools, groups and charities that we care about deeply. You all know that you are able to use your Arizona Tax credit option as a gift to Imago Dei – our partner school. You may not know that you can also direct your tax dollars to our Sahuarita and Continental schools. You are not limited to one choice for your tax dollar. You have many additional gift options. For instance, you are able to use your tax liability as a gift to help support other charities currently under the wing of St. Francis and dear to the hearts of many Franciscans like Youth on Their Own, The Food Bank, Salvation Army, Valley Assistance, Friends In Deed, Hands of a Friend to name a few. All these charities are supported by you through your work with the Tour of Homes and through your support of Outreach projects. Why not consider designating your Arizona tax liability as gifts to one or more of these charities. When you donate you can claim a dollar-for-dollar reduction in your Arizona state income taxes.

Of course, there are rules, regulations, dates and gift amounts to follow but they are as close as your fingertips on the Department of Revenue website azdor.gov. Take a look at publication 707. Please do check with your tax consultant also. This is easy giving. Since we are already obligated to pay our taxes why not direct them. For even more information contact Orji Isiogu (isiogu@aol.com).

Book Review

Once again, Mitch Albom write a book I could not put down. THE STRANGER IN THE LIFEBOAT is his latest novel published this year. I found it even more captivating than 2 of my other favorites of his Tuesdays with Morrie and Five People You Meet in Heaven. Mitch is a bestselling author, screenwriter, playwright, broadcaster and nationally syndicated columnist.

This newest book asks us “What would happen if we cried out to God for help and someone claiming to be God actually appeared before us?” The story is narrated by a lonely passenger named Benji, who recounts the events in a notebook that is discovered years later on an empty raft that washes up on an island. It falls to the island’s chief inspector, Jarty, a man with his own demons, to solve the mystery of what really happened out at sea and is The

Stranger in the Boat really the Lord. This thriller is a unique uplifting story that will leave you examining your own beliefs, while suggesting that answers to prayers may be found where and when we least expect them.

You can find this plus many other books to enjoy, make you think and learn in YOUR LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER—St. Francis in-the-Valley church which is open from 9-12 Mondays-Thursdays and Sundays after church service.

Joyce Davison

Library Resource Center Now Open for Business

Your church Library Resource Center is waiting for you to stop by and select books to read from its collections of 100s of books. It is located in the hallway from the Parish Hall main meeting room and is open Monday through Thursday from 9 am until Noon and Sunday after church. Wednesdays and Thursdays there is a volunteer to help you find what you are looking for.

The emphasis of our collection is spirituality, self-improvement, learning to listen and learn, and helping us live wonderful lives and sharing that with others. The library volunteers have been very busy for the past months processing books for your enjoyment.

Come in, browse the shelves and ask for help. That is what we are here for.

Joyce Davison, Your Librarian

Exceptional Opportunity for Ministry

I have given a great deal of thought on how to persuade my brethren in Christ to join the Personnel Committee. My wife, Jennifer with her characteristic humor, suggested that I conduct a raffle in which the first-place winner would get a desirable bottle of an adult beverage, the second-place winner would get a less desirable bottle of an adult beverage and the third and fourth place winners will be heralded as they are installed as members of the Personnel Committee. After a good laugh, I told her that I would first attempt to invite people to join without resorting to bribery or trickery.

So here goes. The Parish is in need of additional

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bart DallaMura
- 2 Jim Bush
- 3 Chris Anderson
- 3 Leroy Vaughn
- 5 Peter Murphy
- 6 Stephen North
- 6 Carol Wingereid
- 7 Sue Howell
- 7 Mary Messick
- 8 Katherine Barnes
- 10 Robert Marben
- 13 Shirlee Schappach
- 13 Scott Whiteside
- 14 Jay Adams
- 14 Stephen Huhta
- 15 Michael Micari
- 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 Katherine Vint
- 30 Robert Vint

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 George & Chris Anderson
- 2 Gary & Anita Jacobs
- 28 Joe & Kathleen Chidester
- 29 Robert & Grace Marben
- 30 Charles & Marsha Tripp

members to help in the work of the committee. In a nutshell, the committee provides assistance to the Rector on matters involving the lay staff of St. Francis. We are at a critical point in the life of our Parish as we recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. We need more members to join the effort to help our Rector lead us into a future in which we fervently “live as Christ’s heart and hands in the world.”

Please prayerfully consider contributing your heart and hands to the vitally important ministry of the Personnel Committee. If you need more information, please contact Orji Isiogu at (517) 230-7149 or Isiogu@aol.com. Remember, if this direct approach does not bear fruit I will have to resort to the above-described raffle system. I look forward to hearing from numerous people interested in participating in this important ministry.
Orji Isiogu, Acting Chair,

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



PARISH MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JANUARY 2022

Monday, 3 January

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 4 January

Handbells, 9 AM, Loft

Men’s Group, 9 AM, PH

Trust Committee, 10 AM, CfR

Stephen Ministry, 12 PM, VR

Wednesday, 5 January

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 6 January

Stewardship, 10 AM, CfR

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Saturday, 8 January

Holy Eucharist, 4 PM, PH

Monday, 10 January

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 11 January

Handbells, 9 am, Loft

Social Activities, 11 AM, CfR

Vestry, 4 PM, CfR

Wednesday, 12 January

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 13 January

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Monday, 17 January

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 18 January

Handbells, 9 AM, Loft

Men’s Group, 9 AM, PH

Wednesday, 19 January

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 20 January

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Monday, 24 January

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 25 January

Handbells, 9 AM, Loft

Wednesday, 26 January

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 27 January

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Saturday, 29 January
Wayne North Memorial, 1 PM

Monday, 31 January
Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

CALENDAR LEGEND

PH - Parish Hall

VR - Vulliamy Room

CfR - Conference Room

CR - Classroom

2021 Parish Statistics

Transfers In

Rena Robbins

Laura Thomas

Joyce Davison

Frank & Nancy Davidson

Deaths

Max Mayes

Nancy Gardner

Kathy Helgeson

Vern Hughes

Janet Corton

Patrick Ongley

Virginia Golden

Ed Wanek

Virginia Biondi

Helen Symes

Marjorie Gardner

Christine Conley

Roberta Davis

Alan Swain

Linda Schnelle

Donald Champlin

Margaret Terrell

Wayne North

Recycle

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

Do we have...

your@e-mail.address?

*Arizona
Episcopalian
Magazine*

The AZ Episcopalian magazine is now available online. The current issue has a variety of articles showcasing all the great things going on around the Diocese. If you would rather receive it by mail—or to sign up to receive it online—contact Deborah (Finance Officer) through the Parish Office (520-625-1370 or deborah@stfranciscgvaz.org) to sign up. It's FREE!

*Clergy
Discretionary Funds*

Donations to Clergy Discretionary Funds are always needed and always welcome; these funds make it possible for 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 even 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.

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



**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 Parish Administrator Gerald Near. 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 Gerald 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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