



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. 60, No. 1

January, 2023

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

Words From Warren . . .

It is a new year and a new beginning. Time to say goodbye to 2022 and welcome 2023!
I hope the holiday season was a good one for you and your family.

For the first time since 2019, many were able to celebrate with family and friends they haven't seen since before Covid19. Even at worship, we are seeing the faces of friends who are returning after a break due to the pandemic. We remain cautiously optimistic that we are coming to an end of a difficult time for many.

When people come through a life-threatening illness, some have told me it feels like they have a new lease on life. It is a new start, and sometimes, a chance to make amends. New plans are made, the bucket list with many hopes and dreams long put off is now more important, as are friendships and family.

A new year is a time to make resolutions, but in the church, it is a time to plan ahead and look at opportunities for ministry. St. Paul said, *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Phil 4:13)* Christmas, which we just celebrated, reminds us that all things are possible through God in Christ.

What amazing and wonderful things can we do at St. Francis in the Valley that will make a difference in our church family as well as in the local community? How can we draw on the Franciscan values of Spirituality, Compassion, Care for Creation, and Peace and Justice, to start something new or expand on what we are already doing?

On Sunday, January 29, we will have our Annual Meeting which offers us a chance to look at the past year, but it is also an opportunity to look to this new year of 2023. A new year offers us the time to build upon what we started over the last year and a half, growing into the image of our Patron, St. Francis of Assisi, who calls us to walk the Way of Jesus.

What is God calling you to change, to heal, or start fresh in your life as we begin 2023? What is God calling you to do in the church that you have put off or always wanted to try? If you would like to get together to talk or pray about something, please let me know.

May God bless you abundantly in 2023!

Fr. Warren

Franciscan Focus

We have witnessed Christ coming into the world as a helpless baby. Why? Because God wants to identify not with the rich and powerful but with the weak and lowly. No one however is beyond God's love.

This child however is the Prince of Peace who is the Source of all of God's vision for creation. All are to live in harmony with each other. St. Francis like Jesus lived this vision and inspires us today. When Christians were fighting Muslims, Francis stepped over the line to engage the Sultan. He had chosen to live God's vision over the evil systems that carve up God's creation.

One of our easily forgettable baptismal promises is: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? Peace and justice means everyone is to live in harmony and no one has more or less than they need. The Prince of Peace shows just that. Peace and justice are a Franciscan value and one we hope to understand and implement here.

That is what the national Episcopal organization, Episcopal Peace Fellowship, promotes. The executive director is Melanie Merkel Atha. She will be in Tucson this month and part of the time in Green Valley. Due to the submission deadline, it's old news by the time you read this. We hope to have a core group in place to invite her to speak to all of us about the mission of EPF and decide if and how we want to participate in this way of living peace and justice.

This is the season of Epiphany. An epiphany is a moment when you suddenly become conscious of something. To live Franciscan values is to have our comfort zones stretched to take in and become God's love, compassion and care for all creation, exchanging our egos for God's Life filling our hearts. It brings us awareness and growth in the Kingdom, here and now.

Peace and Good,

Fr. Tom



Annual Reports

If you are in charge of a group or committee that contributes to the Annual Report (presented at the Annual Meeting of the Parish, January 29, 2023), please send your report—as soon as possible—via email to Gerald (the lucky guy who gets to put it all together) at gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org.

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Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

600 South La Cañada Drive, Green Valley AZ 85614

(520) 625-1370 – www.stfrancisgvaz.org

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Bishop

THE VERY REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH

Rector

The Rev. Becky Williamson

Deacon

The Rev. Linda Hutson

Deacon

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Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

Ginny Arundell, Marybeth Bates, Barbara Bundy,

Joyce Davison, Sandy Eckstein, Glenn Matto,

Orji Isiogu, Vince Remillard, Cheryl Tardy-Albin

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CHURCH STAFF

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Gerald Near

Director of Music

J. Michael Case

Organist

Sharlyn Matthews

Director Emeritus, Handbell Ensemble

Sophia Witte

Handbell Ensemble Director



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

Gratitude in Giving

The “2023 Gratitude in Giving Campaign” for St. Francis in the Valley is coming to an end. St. Francis is filled with Gratitude and offers thanks to those having already completed their 2023 “Estimate of Giving” form. While it is a difficult time financially for all of us, showing your continued support of St. Francis and its ministries is a testament to our commitment “to live as Christ’s heart and hands in the world.”

Based upon the projected income for St. Francis in the Valley, it will be a challenging year. The leadership team will be prioritizing the projected Maintenance/Repair and Capital needs, and the ministry teams will be looking for creative ways to continue their ministries. Please be supportive of these efforts in any way that you can—volunteering, financially, creatively, and prayerfully.

If you have not yet completed your “Estimate of Giving” form, you can still do so by picking one up at the office or you can go online to the St. Francis in the Valley website, where you will click on the “2023 Gratitude in Giving Campaign” button which will take you to the campaign information and the “Estimate of Giving” form, which can be filled out online, or be printed and manually filled out and mailed to the church, or dropped in the collection basket.

Gloria Cadwalader, Parish Treasurer

From the Parish Librarian

Do you believe in Angeles? I do. I found another book I want to share with all of you. It is *LITERARY ANGELS* edited by Harriet Scott Chessman. There are stories about angels of beauty and light; angels who meet with human cruelty; angels who slip into our lives and become present and real. Reported in last Sunday’s GV News is such a story of Bruce Wachholz who had a flat tire. When he notices this hub cap was gone, he set out on a search. When he returned to his car he found Steve changing the tire. When done Steve left without a word and now he’s trying to find Steve. I think Steve is one of those angels you will find in this book. It is on the Library Table in the Parish Hall on Sunday after the service. Check it out and enjoy!!

Joyce Davison, Librarian

Remembering Madeline (again)

My article about former Parish Secretary and assistant organist Madeline Williams—published in the November 2022 issue of *The Franciscan Staff*—provoked a good deal of comment from many of you, so much that I think a little more of the story is in order; and there’s more to tell.

As it turns out, like many of you, my first experience of Madeline was at the Chapel entrance to the church on a Sunday morning. I was a visitor and Madeline was a greeter. I came away from that encounter thinking ‘what an extraordinary person.’

This was all long before I became associated with the parish as Director of Music. I didn’t remember, during the time in between, much of anything about that visit to St. Francis in the Valley, but I did remember Madeline.

There was nothing ordinary about Madeline. Hers was a big personality, but not in any sense an ‘in your face’ one. Madeline had been a public school teacher and there was a good deal of the ‘schoolmarm’ left over. I often felt that, unless I minded my ‘p’s and q’s,’ I would be on a trip to the principal’s office. But, even so, she was never overbearing. And that was because, I think, there was a sense of humor forever lurking in the background. (Maybe she was wondering why none of us had ever grown up: up, that is, to her standards of what it meant to be a ‘grown up.’)

Madeline was always elegantly attired. If there was a ‘casual’ Madeline, I never saw her. And she was in her way rather formal (nothing very casual there either). The very exuberant Madeline-the-Greeter was somewhat at odds with the poised and elegant Madeline-the-Parish Secretary. To my knowledge she never accepted personal invitations: dinner, lunch, partys, that sort of thing. She was a very private person. In spite of that, everyone who knew her thought of her as a friend—and a confidant too: someone in whom you felt you could safely confide.

Many years ago I received a postcard, mailed from Hong Kong, from a gentle lady I had had the great good fortune to get to know. She was traveling with a cousin (or sister, I’ve forgotten which) on the QE II and, along the way, died aboard ship. I got the postcard two weeks after she had been buried at sea.

continued page 5, column 2

Senior Warden's Thoughts

December was a busy month at St. Francis as we prepared for the arrival of the Christ Child. Now that January has arrived, we have more time to study, reflect and serve our neighbors.

I admit to being a nature nut. I love to watch Mother Nature at work, whether it's a flock of Quail fighting over the seed block or the butterflies flying from bloom to bloom in the Butterfly Garden. And I when see Mr. Cardinal, he reminds me of someone dear who has passed on. The desert trees are now in winter mode and today it's snowing on the mountain tops. God has laid out for us such simple beauty. We still must learn to get along with those animals who call this area home, the coyotes, the javelinas and even the bats, remembering that we have moved into their native habitats. As we move forward in 2023, let us all become aware of the world around us. What are we doing to care for it, to not be wasteful, to preserve water, to preserve our lands? St. Francis cared for Creation. Let's make that our goal for this coming year.

May the year 2023 bring you and yours Peace and Joy in the love of God.

Blessings.

In Christ,

Jullie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Notes

1. As of December 5, the Church has no employed sextons. Both Deana Bond, Lead Sexton, and Clarke Green, Sexton, resigned their positions. The Personnel Committee, Orji Isiogu, Chair, Father Warren, and Deb Harby, Finance Director/Office Manager are posting job announcements for Lead Sexton with a restructured, full time (32 hours with on call) job description and Seasonal-Part-time Sexton for 10-12 hours during the busy months of September-October through April-May. The main responsibilities of this position are setting up (and taking down) furniture for our multiple events and doing other miscellaneous tasks. During this transition, the office staff, Rector, multiple parishioners, and Junior Warden are fulfilling sexton responsibilities.

2. On December 7 our Church's American and Episcopal Church flags were lowered at half mast to honor lives lost on December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii.

3. Though not new, the central Courtyard is typi-

cally visited daily by roving javelina herds. They like the acorns produced by our three live oak trees. While visiting, they root up the soil at the base of the trees and leave droppings. All of this means more landscape work as well as cleanup, which translates to personnel time. Also, at times baby javelina accompany the adults. The parents are quite aggressive, if they have babies with them. Though javelina and other critters are part of the desert, some endanger not only parishioners but also many community groups that use our meeting rooms that regularly end at 9 PM or after.

4. The Church is accepting donations toward the purchase of already-designed wrought iron gates with dove and cross ornamentation that would provide latched barriers to javelina at both entrances into the Courtyard. Donations can be placed in the Sunday offering with designation to the gates, mailed to the Church, or delivered to the office. A poster in the Parish Hall explains this project in more detail; or, Kristi Menix, Junior Warden, can provide other information. Each of the three gates is \$1800. At this date, we thank those six individuals/couples who have donated a total of \$1300. No amount is too small. Thank you for your consideration.

5. The defunct light outside the south Chapel door entrance has been repaired with a light sensor, so that the adjacent sidewalk and entrance door are well lit for safety after dusk and until dawn.

6. The pole lights in the west parking lot are working well again. The timer was repaired as was the wiring in one of the poles. As the bulbs/lamps burn out, they will be replaced with LED lamps, which give a white glow rather than the yellow-tinged lighting of older bulbs.

7. The activation pads for the electric, automatic doors at north Church and south Chapel entrances have been repaired.

8. The cooling function of the HVAC system operated with the choir loft thermostat has been assessed due to recent poor cooling in the loft. The mechanical unit is leaking coolant. The cost of replacing the old coolant plus mechanical repairs may be less cost-effective than replacing the unit.

9. The Junior Warden has submitted the 2023 building and grounds budget proposal to the Church Treasurer.

10. The metal fountain at the east entrance of the Courtyard has been deemed beyond repair, because

of chronic leaks. We plan to replace it with a similar one while keeping the original donor plaque beside it. The Memorial and Gifts Ministry is assisting with this project.

11. The poorly functioning door entering the Parish Hall kitchen from the designated parking area has been refurbished to ensure appropriate function and security.

12. Four broken parking curbs have been replaced with new, concrete curbs; Felix Landscaping has also delivered 2 yards of base fill to the grounds near the back of the office buildings to build eroded areas back up.

13. Craig Reid and Reg Kahrmanis are coordinating teams of volunteer parishioners to continue establishing functional rock beds, the water collection pit, and trimming overgrown trees and shrubs. Thank you to all dedicated ground volunteers! Welcome Jon and Susan Burch, Harvey Eaves, and Steve Huhta to the ground team. Everything is looking great!

14. Thank you to Susanne Fairman for her recent donation of a new hand vacuum to the Church. We will put that to good use frequently.

15. Lastly, we are investigating a recent, large water usage bill for our complex via a data usage chart that the water company sent us. The source is yet unknown. We just know we have normal water usage now, which is about 7000 gallons per month.

Hoping everyone had a wonderful Advent and Christmas! Thank you for your interest in maintaining a safe, attractive, comfortable, and secure buildings and grounds.

Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharist is scheduled for January 14 at 4 PM in the Parish Hall.

Prayer Chain

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

How to Access Service Videos

Go to the Parish website (www.stfranciscgvaz.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!

Remembering Madeline (Again)

Receiving a postcard from someone who had been dead for two weeks is the sort of event one doesn't expect ever to be repeated in one's lifetime. Until Madeline. A few days after Madeline died I, along with many another of her friends and acquaintances, received a letter informing us that she, Madeline, was now in heaven and that she would be there to greet us upon our arrival—provided, of course, we didn't have to first stop off at the principal's office. (That latter bit is an assumption on my part, but a fairly safe one—you think I'm making this up, don't you?) But Madeline wasn't in any way a looney: she was simply a person in possession of an unshakable faith. She would be in heaven (already was) and would be there to greet me, and that was that. A short time after all this I dreamt about Madeline—I'm being careful not to say 'Madeline appeared to me in a dream'—and rather vividly. She didn't say anything, looked as she always had, wore a hat and carried a handbag.

An unforgettable character was Madeline Williams; unforgettable in the best sense. I don't know about the heaven thing, but who does? *Gerald*

Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for November, December (2022) and January (2023) 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.

Handbell Ensemble

Our Handbell Ensemble will again be rehearsing in the Choir Loft on Mondays at 10 AM and new members are welcome. If you can count to four and maintain a steady beat, you're in! Just contact Sophia Witte by text at 520-509-5037 or

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@stfranciscgvaz.org and let him know of your interest.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bart DallaMura
- 2 Jim Bush
- 3 Chris Anderson
- 5 Peter Murphy
- 6 Stephen North
- 6 Carol Wingereid
- 7 Sue Howell
- 7 Mary Messick
- 10 Robert Marben
- 13 Shirlee Schappach
- 13 Scott Whiteside
- 14 Stephen Huhta
- 15 Kathy Ravine
- 16 Nancy Hickman
- 19 BrandE Faupell
- 21 Stephanie Huszar
- 22 Penny Junke
- 23 Linda Berg
- 23 Teddi Byrd
- 24 Lanny Helgeson
- 26 Jan Misner
- 27 John Smith
- 28 William Peissig
- 30 John Burk
- 30 Jan Poole
- 30 Katherine Vint
- 30 Robert Vint

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



Fran Coleman

Deacon Candidate

Deacon-in-training Fran Coleman is a cradle and grave Episcopalian, just not the 40 years in the middle. She returned to the Episcopal church six years ago, when there was an opportunity to become involved in Native American ministry. She is a parishioner of St. Michael and All Angels church in Tucson.

Fran lives in Tucson with her partner, Judy Bush. She has lived in Tucson for 45 years. Her +father was raised in Tucson. Via visiting grandparents here as a child, she has seen the city and environs expand considerably since the 1960's. She remembers when Green Valley was nothing but vast acres of cotton and peanut fields.

When not studying for her deacon training, Fran enjoys walks, hikes, music, animals, nature, photography and archaeology. She is also a proud parent of a black lab, Daisy, and two twin-sister grey tabby cats, Olive and Esther.

Messiah or Madman?

If Jesus returned today, would you recognize him or her? Would you be open to a holy person; indeed God incarnate who is walking among us? Would you see a liar, a lunatic or the Lord?

Please join me in viewing 10, 45-minute episodes of the very interesting and controversial Netflix series, "Messiah." This is a modern-day fictional story of a Middle Eastern man who shows up with miracles. Some believe he's the second coming of Christ.

Others question his mental status and think he's a fake.

We will watch Wednesdays at 10:30 AM, followed by a 15-minute discussion, starting January 18, 2023, concluding on March 29. No class February 22, Ash Wednesday. Exact location TBD in the new year. I hope to see you there!

Fran Coleman,

Deacon Candidate

(Fcoleman4444@gmail.com)

Altar Flowers

Would you like to have flowers placed on the altar on a certain Sunday? Flowers may be given in loving memory of someone or in thanksgiving for a special person or occasion you wish to celebrate. Call the Carol Berg at (308-230-0605) with your request. Leave

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!

Do we have...

your@e-mail.address?

**PARISH MEETINGS AND
EVENTS — JANUARY 2023**

Wednesday, 4 January

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 5 January

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Wednesday, 11 January

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Memorials Cmte, 10 AM, SFR

Library Committee, 1 PM, L

Thursday, 12 January

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Saturday, 14 January

Holy Eucharist, 4 PM, PH

Wednesday, 18 January

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 19 January

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Wednesday, 25 January

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 25 January

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

CALENDAR LEGEND

PH - Parish Hall

VR - Vulliamy Room

CfR - Conference Room

SFR - Saint Francis Room

L - Library

2022 Parish Statistics

Transfers In

Mark & Tisha Stril

Ron & Mary Aigner

Carolyn Carter

Tracey Riley

New Members by

Confirmation or Reception

Stewart McKendry

Myron Le Roy Kuebler

Christina Louise Kuebler

LeRoy Vaughn

Ceci Vaughn

Diane Ward

Rolando Altamirano

Transfers Out

Bill & Alicia Baucom

Al Saterbak

The Rev. Pat Kirk

Deaths

Jerry McAllister

Grace Marben

Julie Ratley

Barbara Phillips

Richard Tinney

Lee Cornelison

Nancy Pearce

Lois Weinert

Edith Hawkins

Al Bowman

Ona Gibson

Doris Kuzmak

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.

**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 LaBarre leads 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.



ST. FRANCIS-IN-THE-VALLEY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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