



# 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. 57, No. 6

July/August 2020

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

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## *From our Interim Rector . . .*

### PREACHING, TEACHING AND HEALING

This June, our Episcopal Liturgical Calendar slipped into the season of Pentecost. We are now in the second half of the Church Year, extending June through November, when the gospel (which is Matthew this year) is about Jesus' ministry of preaching, teaching and healing, mostly in northern Israel, around the Sea of Galilee. The disciples follow Jesus around, asking questions and learning from his example as he preaches Godly living, encourages hesitant followers, heals the sick and raises the dead to life—all the while teaching disciples how to do the very things he does, in the Name and power of God.

We, who are Jesus' twenty-first century disciples, follow him around this summer, as we worship Sunday to Sunday. Our ministry today is also preaching, teaching and healing, as we learn it by following our Lord. In fact, St. Francis' observant Junior Warden, Julie Reppenhagen, enthused in conversation this winter, "We are a teaching parish. We are going to get back more from teaching than we put in." I am struck by Julie's prescience. What are signs we see now of Jesus' ministry exercised at St. Francis?

Preaching is spiritual food: sometimes attractive, sometimes boring, always nourishing. Even when all you remember is the joke, the sermon provides regular encouragement to keep us going. And often we learn something! The very highest compliment I've ever received as a preacher was from a parishioner who said, "I never make out my grocery list while you are preaching."

Teaching came alive for me last summer. I was warned that Franciscans stay home from church during the summer, because it's hot and 'there's nothing going on.' I've offered a variety of courses this year: 30-day prayer group, Inquirers' prep for Confirmation, Isaiah, Revelation, Minor Prophets and Ruth, among others. You have showed up in droves for all of them! We've had fun—and I've learned a lot.

But when Julie called St. Francis 'a teaching parish' I think what she had in mind was what parishioners learn from one another. Members' work and life experience run broad and deep here. Spirituality runs deep here, too. We see people face illness or penury with grace and courage, and we learn from their example. We see people exercise varieties of ministry with energy and joy, and we learn from their example. For work on a committee or a governing board, a guideline is: first year: learn; second year: do; third year: teach. I observe members of our Vestry using their three-year term in this progression, and I believe it explains how we continue to develop a committed, high-functioning Vestry from year to year.

Healing is what we pray for those who are sick. And when people go to the hospital, we really pray for them. During my first year in Arizona, I was struck down with cellulitis. When I was too weak to stand, it was the prayers of a congregation which lifted me out of a hospital bed and restored my strength.

This spring, there is emotional healing going on at St. Francis. It began with the Vaughn correspondence about

*continued on page 7, column 1*

*From Curate, the Rev. Nelson Mendoza*

Dear Beloved Ones of St. Francis in The Valley,

When I first began vocational discernment to become ordained in the Episcopal Church, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. Even now, as the world is immersed in a variety of challenges ranging from a global health crisis to a growing uprising in awareness of injustice in our country, I find myself unsure of what the future may hold in my ministry. However, what I do know is that no matter where I have been on my journey thus far, God shows up even in the most curious of places.

My story is a journey of twists and turns that I hope to share with you all as we get to know each other. I am a first-generation Asian American immigrant from the Philippines. My ancestors were colonized by Spain which explains my last name, a name that goes back centuries and is muddled with a complex history and a legacy that lives within my bones and blood. I moved to America with my mother when I was less than two years old and we began our life in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

In Virginia, I was raised minutes from the roaring tides of the Atlantic ocean and spent the majority of my formative years there. As a child, I was curious, inquisitive, and had a compassionate heart for creatures great and small. It was no surprise that I eventually received my undergraduate degree from Old Dominion University where I majored in Communications because I wanted to learn how to connect with people from all walks of life and various communities.

After college, I began volunteering as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in one of the largest volunteer rescue squads in the nation. It was through that experience that I became more aware of the various levels of injustice that exist in our world. In responding to people's medical emergencies and being invited into their homes at their greatest times of need, I was also invited into seeing how systemic injustice, economic injustice, and access to various resources perpetuated forms of healthcare inequality. It was in those experiences, I grew closer in my desire to meet people where they were and to serve people from all walks of life.

Eventually, I discerned the idea that I wanted to deepen my understanding of healthcare and pursued a Master's in Global Health at Arizona State University. However, during that experience, I was introduced to an organization in Phoenix that was doing advocacy work around LGBTQ rights in the workplace, housing, and public accommodation. During that work, I eventually crossed paths with faith-based community organizers which led me to the Episcopal Church after being raised Roman Catholic.

*Continued on page 3, column 1*

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**Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church**

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Green Valley AZ 85614

(520) 625-1370 – [www.stfrancisgvaz.org](http://www.stfrancisgvaz.org)

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**THE RT. REV. JENNIFER REDDALL,**

Bishop

**THE REV. CANON COLVILLE SMYTHE**

Interim Rector

**The Rev. Becky Williamson**

Deacon

### **THE VESTRY**

Wayne North, Senior Warden;

Julie Reppenhagen, Junior Warden;

Mary Beth Bates, Bill Baucom, Sandy Eckstein,

Kristi Menix, Orji Isiogu, Sandy Russell,

Cheryl Tardy-Albin, Helen Mullaly, Jenica Hisko,

*ex officio*: Erik Ringkjob, Treasurer;

Bobbi Tucker, Clerk

### **CHURCH STAFF**

**Gerald Near**

*Parish Administrator*

**Deborah Harby**

*Financial Officer*

**Gerald Near**

*Director of Music*

**Beth-el Klein**

*Administrative Assistant*

**J. Michael Case**

*Organist*

**Sharlyn Matthews**

*Director Emeritus, Handbell Ensemble*

**Sophia Witte**

*Handbell Ensemble Director*

**John Colip**

*Head Sexton*

**Susan Whitney, Henry Ramirez,**

**Clyde Tardy**

*Assistant Sextons*

*The mission of*

*St. Francis in the Valley, Green Valley,*

*is to live as Christ's heart and hands*

*in the world.*

## Cooldown with the Curate

Upon finding the Episcopal Church, I knew that I was home. From the first sermon that I listened to at Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix, I felt that this was where I belonged. You might be wondering what magical words I heard during that sermon and it was simple—love your neighbor.

Perhaps, now more than ever, we are being asked by God to consider what loving our neighbor looks like. Loving our neighbor may look like wearing a mask, offering water in the desert heat, listening to the voices of the marginalized, and standing up for the most vulnerable in our communities.

Finally, my deepest thanks to Fr. Warren, Fr. Colville, the members of the Vestry, Bishop Reddall, and Canon Anita for working with me as I discerned the call as a Curate at St. Francis in the Valley.

For now, I am looking forward to getting to know more of you as we safely journey in ministry together. Please reach out and let me know how I can pray for you and your loved ones. I'd like to close with this prayer "For the Human Family" from the Book of Common Prayer.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In God's Peace,

The Rev. Nelson Mendoza, Curate

### Clergy Availability

Our St. Francis clergy are still available for pastoral care and calls. Contact Fr. Colville directly at [colville@stfrancisgvaz.org](mailto:colville@stfrancisgvaz.org) or 626-824-0270.

### How to Access Service Videos

Go to the Parish website ([www.stfrancisgvaz.org](http://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!



#### Description:

As the summer heats up and the news headlines sizzle, swing by our online gathering to decompress and cool off while getting to know our new curate! Join The Rev. Nelson Mendoza for a weekly opportunity to connect and chat about things going on both in the world and in your lives. In addition, we will be sharing different and innovative ways we are practicing self-care using techniques ranging from mindfulness meditation, centering prayer, and more!

**Who:** All who are interested in connecting with the new curate.

**What:** Approximately 1 hour long conversations, dialogue, and exploring new ways to relax despite the heat.

**When:** Thursdays at 3 PM starting July 2

**Where:** Zoom

**Why:** To connect and learn new methods of self-care

**Ex:** Gratitude practices, unplugging for the day, stretching, mindfulness meditation, prayer, dancing/music, journaling, etc. - We will explore ways of self-care each week by seeing how people have been doing each week with practices we discussed the week prior and then introduce a new practice.

**ACTION ITEM:** Create an agenda for each meeting that includes which self-care method we will be exploring. Find ways to create helpful dialogue. If you're interested in participating or getting more details, please email Nelson at [nelson@stfrancisgvaz.org](mailto:nelson@stfrancisgvaz.org) so that he can get you the appropriate information to participate.

### Prayer Chain

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



**Description:**

This will be a photo/narrative series for the people of St. Francis that allows them to share parts of their life with the rest of the community. In addition to storytelling, it will allow people to feel connected despite the current state of affairs.

**Who:** Congregation members of St. Francis.

**What:** A photo narrative series that will document St. Francis folks by asking them to submit a photo(s) and a short story about something important that happened to them.

**When:** Weekly social media posts and submissions in “News from the Pews” or other locations - will begin soliciting for “entries” starting soon with the hope to begin sharing online/etc by July 6.

**Where:** All digital or people can mail photos in if that’s more doable for them. We can return them.

**Why:** To continue to build community despite the quarantine, to learn about one another, to increase social media content, and to share community demographics with outside folks and potential members.

**ACTION ITEM:** Create an “in-take” form or questionnaire. Figure out at least 4-6 people we can use as our pilot conversation partners. Also, figure out a way for people without internet/tech to submit photos or share their interest.

If you’re interested in participating or getting more details, please email Nelson at [nelson@stfrancisgvaz.org](mailto:nelson@stfrancisgvaz.org) so that he can get you the appropriate information to participate.

### Senior Warden’s Notes

A couple of months back, I introduced you to retired Navy Admiral James Stavridis and his recent book titled *Sailing True North: Ten Admirals and the Voyage of Character*. With this current issue of THE FRANCISCAN STAFF covering July and August, we will focus our attention on the times and exploits of Sir Francis Drake, “A Pirate and a Patriot,” who lived from 1540 to 1596,

with most of his adult years in and about the Caribbean.

Drake’s base of operations was facilitated and supported by several island nation ports in the Caribbean. While the focus of our two earlier reviews were on Themistocles, who through his Power of Persuasion, earned for himself several powerful political chairs in Athens, Greece where he was able to re-build that city and its sister city of Piraeus to become major merchant ports serving the entire Mediterranean area, and then followed that with a period of astronomical development and growth of Greece’s maritime fleets for several centuries before Christ’s birth. It was through Themistocles’ Power of Persuasion that he became the forerunner of Admiral Stavridis’ research in preparation for writing his book.

Following Themistocles, was Zheng He, who’s modern-day rank would have him addressed as China’s Fleet Admiral earning for himself a reputation of respect from the Ming Dynasty, sailing the waters of the south China Sea and westward into what is now the Indian Ocean, thus extending China’s lucrative trade routes to the west. Born in 1371, he suffered defeats as a teenager and through the execution of his quiet skills of management and organization, and with raw resilience in the face of torment and pain in his earlier life, he achieved the respect that he honestly earned and deserved from his rulers.

The single question that Admiral Stavridis brings with his attention to bear on Sir Francis Drake is how Drake managed to achieve such a high level of recognition despite the cruelty and ruthlessness he imposed on his enemies and his own crew members. “While I admired his boldness, decisiveness, and audacity, I also shuddered at some of his chosen courses of action, reflecting the darker angels of his character. Sir Francis Drake is a good example of how a deeply flawed character can still accomplish a great deal in an energetic life—for both good and evil.”

The reader of Drake’s history never escapes the cruelty of his methods. As was his character and would certainly be ours—that which we make known to the world—remains visible to all long after we are gone.

Drake’s early attempts at establishing himself as a worthy and respected mariner were quite successful as he served his apprenticeship at sea with his cousins who came from the same British seaport of Plymouth. However, members of this extended family soon

learned that a life at sea afforded them a concurrent career pattern as both a merchant and as a pirate, the later a valuable alternative when business opportunities became scarce.

Nevertheless, Drake quickly came to the understanding of what was needed for him to become his own boss, and a successful one at that. As being born an Englishman with his address-of-residence currently tied to various islands in the Caribbean, he quickly became aware that the Spanish Navy was to become his primary enemy. After a spell, Drake's exploits received both positive and negative reviews depending on what side of the business fence he was presently working on.

Apparently, Queen Elizabeth had such a positive view of his exploits that she directed Drake to lead a fleet of vessels to circumnavigate the globe, taking three years between 1577 and 1580 thereby giving the rest of the world the false assumption that Britain was in fact executing a "Show-the-Flag" tour of an extended duration.

Unknown to the general public was the fact that Drake had under his command a small group of raiders, which he quickly deployed ahead of the fleet of merchant vessels. These raiders rapidly filled their holds with the treasures of their conquests, but at the same time saw the rewards for the capture of Drake increase in those same countries on both sides of the Atlantic.

After a spell, one would expect Drake to have tired of constantly living at sea and instead retire to a quiet life on a farm in southern England. But there was one more voyage in the Caribbean where he drove himself and his crew relentlessly. During the voyage, he died of dysentery on 28 January 1596 at the age of 56 years. His crew prepared his body for burial at sea, dressed in full battle armor and sealed in a lead casket. Through the decades, searches have been conducted, but his casket has never been discovered. During his numerous exploits at sea, Sir Francis Drake was always found to be at the forefront of the battle line. His exact presence was always one which exhibited his personal physical courage. His victims and enemies alike shared the same fear and respect he inspired in his crew.

As was demonstrated by Drake's lifestyle, courage can become a valuable asset, but at the same time if it is misplaced or is misused, it can get the leader into trouble. As Drake discovered early in life, a good lesson in developing courage as a character trait can be found if one is able to balance courage with his/her luck—the

lesson being "live to fight another day."

Our first three studies of character traits and the role which a particular character trait plays in a unique leadership style . . .

- Themistocles, 524-459 B.C.: Power of Persuasion
- Zheng He, 1371-1433 A.D.: Resilience
- Sir Francis Drake, 1540-1596 A.D.: Courage, but with needless cruelty shall be his legacy.

For our next edition of THE FRANCISCAN STAFF, we will feature the life and times of Vice Admiral Lord Viscount Horatio Nelson, 1758-1805 A.D.

*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.

### *From Our Treasurer*

SURPRISE! SURPRISE!

In spite of the Corona Virus Pandemic and its impact on St Francis, May 2020 was a surprisingly good financial month for the church. The income for the month was \$70,753 versus a budget of \$47,729 (\$23,024 over) while our expenses were \$38,302 against a budget of \$47,729 for a saving of \$9,152. This resulted in a gain for the month of \$32,302. The main reason for the gain is that the Government came through with a \$21,200 credit to the church from the Payroll Protection Program which Congress authorized in February. The contribution is managed through the Diocese since we use their service to process our payroll. I expect this contribution to continue through June with some contribution in July as well.

Also the further good news was that even without the PPP contribution the Parish gave more in pledges and gifts than we had budgeted for the month. In fact some gave their whole personal Stimulus Check to the church, so we would have been favorable for the month even without the PPP.

From my heart I say THANK YOU! It gives me a warm feeling to know that the congregation is so supportive in these trying times.

*Erik Ringlejob*  
Treasurer

*Do we have...*

**your@e-mail.address?**

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Edna Dunn
- 3 Glenn Matto
- 4 Karen Packer
- 6 Carolee Castro
- 6 Janet Corton
- 6 David Dunn
- 10 John Stanford
- 12 Marjorie Gardner
- 13 Shirley Gough
- 13 Julie Ratley
- 13 Sharon Thornby
- 14 Halden Aasen
- 14 Barbara Hook
- 14 John Johnstone
- 14 Linda Lies
- 15 Janet DallaMura
- 16 Danae Michael
- 17 Carol Crain
- 17 Mary Staples
- 18 Nancy Helgath
- 19 Richard Welch
- 19 Barbara Workman
- 22 William A. Barkley
- 22 Sandra Hammond
- 23 Lucy Nielsen
- 24 Donald Champlin
- 24 Charles Reppenhagen
- 26 Janice C. MacLaren
- 26 Jean Schwafel
- 27 Cheryl Tardy-Albin
- 27 Penelope Williams
- 30 Jan Koltun
- 31 Jean McEachran

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 01 Alan & Allana Swain
- 07 Harry & Carol Lyons
- 12 John & Mary Challman
- 12 Joe & Clarinda Hickox
- 12 Cheryl & Nancy Tardy-Albin
- 14 Leroy & Ceci Vaughn
- 19 Stan & Kathy Ravine
- 23 Bob & Marie Swendrzynski

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 3 George Burrige
- 4 Robert Swendrzynski
- 5 Kim Adams
- 6 Virginia Biondio6 Kristi Menix
- 7 Nancy Albin

- 7 John Davis
- 7 Ceci Vaughn
- 8 Janie Hessong
- 10 Ken Barratt
- 10 Kenneth Huszar
- 10 Edith McCully
- 11 Bill Baucom
- 11 Carol Hinterthuer
- 12 Lou Moore
- 13 Marsha Tripp
- 14 Pat Valandry
- 16 Dorothy Blakely
- 16 Edward Martin
- 18 Joan Archibald
- 19 Weston Barnes
- 19 Darlene Gregory
- 19 Kenneth Nielsen
- 20 Ric Pike
- 20 Charles Tripp
- 20 Virginia Wagner
- 21 Patricia Parr
- 22 Andrea Cronrod
- 22 George Haight
- 22 Donald Richards
- 23 David Barnes
- 23 Barbara Phillips
- 24 Nancy Enzie
- 24 Jonell Kotouc
- 25 Richard Tinney
- 25 Philip Vande-Riet
- 26 David Blackburn
- 29 Roberta Davis
- 29 Mike Kerns
- 29 Jim Modrall
- 30 La Dell Howell

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Mark & Paige Day
- 4 Roger & Penelope Williams
- 6 Nancy & Steve Hickman
- 8 Larry & Sue Howell
- 9 Al & Brenda Quick
- 9 Larry & Marsha Wilber
- 10 Nancy & Bill Symons
- 15 Charles & Julianne Reppenhagen
- 17 Stu & Marilyn Findley
- 17 Robert & Sharon Thornby
- 18 Neil Messick & Mary Hart
- 18 Robert & Katherine Vint
- 19 Neil & Nancy Helgath

- 20 Hal Aasen & Lou Moore
- 20 Ed & Barbara Hook
- 23 Ben & Jan Travis
- 24 Jack & Nancy Gardner
- 26 George & Gail Haight
- 27 William & Nancy McGibbon
- 30 Frank & Phebe Anderson
- 30 Don & Virginia Scott
- 31 Rolando & Paula Altamirano
- 31 Roger & Barbara Miller

## 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

James Edward Richey



*continued from page 1*

hurtful political comments which sometimes pop up in our church conversations. The conversation has continued with thoughtful reflections from a number of parishioners. There have been overtures of reconciliation. Understanding has deepened. These are all gestures which contribute to healing in our church and which deepen our capacity to show care and love for others. In doing the work of reconciliation and healing, we exercise Jesus' own ministry of healing.

Preaching, teaching and healing are all teaching in Jesus' ministry. Julie is so right: We are a teaching church. Here at St. Francis, let preaching, teaching and healing continue to be the works of ministry which we exercise in Christ's Name, and for His sake!

In Christ's love.



Fr. Colville

### *The Vestry is Concerned for Your Safety*

At its May 19 meeting, St. Francis Vestry took several decisive actions.

1. Approved sanitary rules for our office complex, and those who work and visit there.
2. Felt that COVID-19 is not yet under enough control safely to open the church at this time. They will review this decision at each monthly meeting.
3. Tasked a subcommittee to develop St. Francis' plan for safely reopening church for in-person worship.

4. Decided our Parish Hall and meeting rooms will remain closed indefinitely.

These decisions come at a cost to the parish budget, to church groups who use our spaces including Border Ministry and Boutique, to community use groups, and to all who hunger to be back in church together with friends and communion. But it was the Vestry's clear, confident consensus that parish members' health is their priority, and that the virus is still too prevalent to risk reopening at this time.

We will continue to provide Sunday worship online every week. The Vestry is working with Neal Hursh to develop our capacity for filming church services, so that St. Francis will always offer the option to worship from home. Online giving is easy now (and most appreciated!)

We will continue to develop our capacity to hold meetings and to offer interactive classes online.

*Fr. Colville*

### *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 Bethel 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 Bethel 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.

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## News Flash

*The Reverend Nelson Mendoza  
Deacon, and Curate at St. Francis  
will be ordained a Priest on  
Saturday, August 15, 2020  
in St. Francis Church, Green Valley  
by the Right Reverend Jennifer Reddall,  
Episcopal Bishop of Arizona*

If the church is still closed for public worship by the pandemic,  
Nelson's ordination will be live-streamed on FaceBook, and available for  
you to watch at home on your computer or Smartphone.

**Save the Date!**