



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. 6

July/August 2021

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

Words From Warren . . .

After more than eight months, I look forward to a summer vacation with my family back in Ontario. There may not be cotton growing there, but the corn will be growing high and hopefully I will be able to do some fishing in the lake behind my house!

I look forward to seeing my father who celebrated his 90th birthday in March, and to see family and friends. I also can't wait to bring Annette back to Arizona when I return at the end of July. I know she is looking forward to moving here, and to finally be able to worship with us and have an opportunity to get to know all of you. As an aside, I also know she has a large "honey-do list" to keep me busy back in Ontario, and has already been developing a list to keep me busy in our house here in Green Valley!

Since arriving on November 1, 2020, there has been much that we have been doing at St. Francis as we ease our way out of the pandemic. By the grace of God and the science of immunology, we are coming to the end of a terrible time in the history of our country. Green Valley is very fortunate to have such a high full vaccination rate. As a result we have recently enjoyed being back together in the church and having time for fellowship and refreshments after the service.

As the virus rate declines, I am hoping that we will have no more restrictions on attendance in the church and social events, as well as use of the Parish Hall for meals by mid-fall.

We recently had a very good meeting with Fr. Timothy Dombek, the Canon for Stewardship in the Diocese. His time with our Committee and Vestry will help us to kickstart our stewardship committee and initiatives. He had many wonderful ideas that can help us live out and express our faith in ways to enhance our lives together St. Francis.

As we look to the fall, we will have opportunities as a Parish to come together and share what we love about our Parish and how working together we can build upon the great things we have done in the past and add more ministry ideas to what we can do in the future.

This works hand-in-hand with my moving forward to developing a vision for the coming years by identifying our core values and needs. Core values identify who we are, what we believe, and provide the basis for our life and ministry in a post-pandemic world.

As of the writing of this newsletter, my first visioning meeting has not yet happened, however the results of that meeting will provide food for thought for a second meeting sometime in September. By the time I finally celebrate my long delayed installation as Rector on October 9, I want to have a clear strategic plan that will take us into the next 2 to 3 years.

Through the month of July while I spend some down time with my family, Fr. Nelson

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Words From Warren, continued
will be available for any needs. Deacon Becky will be back in July to assist Fr. Nelson and will also be available for pastoral care needs.

Wherever you are, or wherever you are going this summer, spend some time recharging and if possible, reconnect with family and friends. Safe travels if you are going out of town, and stay safe and take precautions wherever you go.

Next time you see me I will have Annette and my puppy with me!

Have a great summer!

Blessings to all,

Fr. Warren

Outreach

THANK YOU FRIENDS. Your support of our OUTREACH projects through this very weird Covid time has been outstanding. Since we initiated the COMMUNITY FOOD BANK project you have donated more than 1181 pounds of goods and food for our neighbors in the Green Valley-Sahuarita community. First 128 pounds of peanut butter, then 390 pounds of pasta, beans and rice, 236 pounds of tuna, chicken and spam, 305 pounds of soup, fruit and veggies and then 122 pounds of diapers, wipes and baby food. Special thanks, as well, to the loyal Outreach folks who picked up and delivered all these treasures each Monday morning. Not only were we able to deliver food and diapers but we also, through your generosity, gave the Community Food Bank a check for \$1220 and sent 87 pounds of grapefruit to the Sahuarita Food Bank.

In addition to the Food Bank project we continued to deliver birthday gifts and clothing to the women at CASA PALOMA. We also delivered more than 100 backpacks to the children and their parents waiting for asylum at our border as well as hundreds of warm jackets, sweatshirts and sweaters. We contributed an entire truck load of school supplies to the CONTINENTAL SCHOOL.

At Christmas time we were able to give fifty kids each a \$50 gift card to make sure they each had a happy Christmas—that's \$2500. Add to this checks for \$250 each to the CROSSROADS MISSION for their Thanksgiving and Easter dinners.

Now the Outreach Committee looks forward to meeting together again in the fall to plan the 2021 and 2022 projects. We might not have been able to meet together or to worship our God in the sanctuary but, thanks to all of you and our hardworking committee, we were sure busy doing His work in the community.

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Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

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THE RT. REV. JENNIFER REDDALL,

Bishop

THE REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH

Rector

The Rev. Nelson Mendoza

Curate

The Rev. Becky Williamson

Deacon

THE VESTRY

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Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

Ginny Arundell, Marybeth Bates, Barbara Bundy,

Sandy Eckstein, Janie Hessong, Glenn Matto,

Helen Mullaly, Vince Remillard, Cheryl Tardy-Albin

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Organist

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Director Emeritus, Handbell Ensemble

Sophia Witte

Handbell Ensemble Director

Deana Bond

Head Sexton

Susan Whitney, Clyde Tardy

Assistant Sextons

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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*

ON MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES

The decision to start a conversation about mission with an established congregation often begins because someone has an idea. This idea is often born out of necessity and a reaction to seeing or experiencing some sort of injustice occurring in a community that is relevant in some aspect to the individual having the idea. From my experience in doing ministry, I've found that oftentimes the most "successful" mission projects begin because the person who is the catalyst for that missional idea is rather close to the cause. This manifests in various ways ranging from homelessness, working with undocumented immigrants, the LGBTQ community, and beyond.

At St. Francis, we have many passionate individuals with various interests. After mentioning all of the things above, I would say that the best way to start conversation about mission would be to take the "pulse" of church leadership and the individual(s) who are interested in beginning this new missional activity. This may start with an interest meeting or some sort of brainstorm. I think this is important because there have been many initiatives I have seen that were started but because the church in question was already depleted of resources, the mission ended up being unsustainable. If the church people and its leadership thinks this is something that there is enough energy and resources behind, then we begin an action plan that outlines some of the major steps needed for this missional project to be birthed, to operate, and to hopefully find a point of closure or sustainability.

And so, with Fr. Warren's leadership and the guidance of the vestry we will be looking to turn our gaze outwards into the community to listen to the needs and see how we can be better community neighbors for all of God's children.

The blueprint or plan should take into account things like not wanting to fix the target demographic or group that the mission is intending to work with. What this means is, while dreaming big dreams, not to assume the mission will end homelessness or hunger universally. I think it's important to stay practical and also to establish basic ideologies of

how the church will be working/serving **with** and not for the mission group.

It is easier to make a mission about a quick fix. But, if we lean into the discomfort of how ministry manifests in our lives, we recognize that it is more than handing someone a sandwich. It's about being with our neighbors and truly leaning into the uncomfortable.

That being said, consider this your invitation to look for ways to engage our efforts and actions outside of our immediate community in the coming months. This may look like service opportunities, volunteering, and worship. Either way, we can't do it without you and we would love for you to join us on this exciting adventure of living into our discipleship.

Nelson+

A Note from John

On July 1 Deana Bond will be your Head Sexton and, after fourteen years I will—for the near term—be available in assisting her as the Parish gradually reopens.

My heartfelt thanks to you all for including Trudie and me in the St. Francis family, for your generosity in contributing to my 'purse,' and for helping the many people through your programs. Also, to Gerald for his support throughout my tenure, and consistent good judgment as we navigated the many changes over the years.

Covid-year gave us an opportunity to upgrade various areas and, though still ongoing, having Deborah in the Office taking on many tasks and doing them with exceptional professionalism made it possible for us to keep the many contractors on goal. As my friend Clarke said, "I am not the man I used to think I was," and, with that in mind, this is a good time to pass the job to Deana whose skills in many areas far exceed my own. This will be a long goodbye because, when many of you return this Fall, I will still be around in some fashion.

John Colip

Parish Offices will be closed...
Independence Day Monday, 5 July

*Women of the Parish,
save the date!*

On Wednesday, August 25, Daughters of the King is planning a get together for Annette Leibovitch (Fr. Warren's wife). More information coming soon.

*The Wonders of
Digital Instruments*

Much of what we hear these days when listening to popular music, or commercial music—the kind of stuff we hear in the background of television commercials—or even in film scores is produced, not by the playing of real (or *acoustic*) instruments, but through the playing of instruments created by means of digital sampling. Digital sampling is a way of recording the sound of someone playing every note of the entire compass of, say, a flute, and making it—the resulting recorded sound (or *sample*)—playable on a keyboard. Do that with all the instruments of the orchestra and, by means of computer programs that can put it all together, you can duplicate the sound of an orchestra. (This is admittedly, and at best, a sketchy explanation, but it will have to do for the moment.) Early attempts at this were easy to spot: they sounded only vaguely like an orchestra—more like an orchestra of toy instruments played by chimpanzees. The technique has advanced to the point where, nowadays however, it's difficult—even for musicians—to tell exactly what they're listening to.

One of the best examples of the successful use of digital sampling is the organ. Electronic 'organs' have been around for a long time, you may be quick to tell me; and so they have. The first Hammond organ was manufactured in 1935 and it's still used by pop music groups today, although in a somewhat refined version (it still sounds the same as it did in 1935). Attempts were made fairly early on to imitate the pipe organ (or 'church' organ) electronically, but with disappointing results (at least for organists who had to play them). Digital sampling changed all that, and for the better. Organists now can have at their fingertips the great German, French, and English classic instruments. If I'm willing to spend the money I can sit at home and play—through my own digital speakers—the organ in Westminster Abbey. (There's a You Tube video of a su-

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Senior Warden's Thoughts

St. Francis celebrated the retirement of our Head Sexton, John Colip, on Sunday, June 13, after the worship service. John has served St. Frances and many of its members for 18 years. We presented him with a Thank You card signed by the parishioners in attendance and a purse. His wife Trudie received a lovely Mexican pottery planter and a gift certificate to fill it with plants. We all celebrated at Coffee Hour in the Courtyard with Mark Eckstein's delicious hot dogs and a cupcake/sheet cake. John retired June 30 but will be here to support our incoming Head Sexton, Deana Bond, who begins July 1. Thank you for your many, many years of dedicated service to St. Francis, John.

We are all delighted that our move inside for worship is going very well with an increase in capacity and masks optional. And many church members have returned to worship since the move inside. We all look forward to worshipping inside during our hot summer months.

Our Coffee Hour in the Courtyard has been well received and a big THANK YOU to those who have stepped up to help. Volunteers are desperately needed for July and August. Contact Gail Haight, ghaight7582aol.com to sign up. Remember: no volunteers, no Coffee Hour.

We are excited to hear that Mitzvah Day is returning this Fall. The organizing group has reserved St. Francis Parish Hall for the event on Friday, November 5, with sign-ups here on Wednesday, November 3, at 2 PM. Mitzvah Day is a day of volunteer service. The committee gathers needs from throughout the community. They will range from jobs like painting to writing cards, so there is something for every level of interest and ability. People register on Wednesday, November 3, and return Friday, November 5, for their assignments. When their service is completed, they return to St. Francis for refreshments, donated by La Posada. We hope many from St. Francis will be a part of this wonderful day of service.

In July, Fr. Warren will be in Canada to visit his family. He will be returning with wife Annette and his well-loved pup, Piper. In his absence, Fr. Nelson and Deacon Becky will be leading our worship services. We wish the Leibovitch's safe trip back and forth and look forward to Annette joining us in August.

We pray that you all have a safe and relaxing summer, and we look forward to seeing the whole family of St. Francis together as Fall begins.

Jullie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Notes

Timing is everything! You may have heard this common statement or used it yourself to explain the success or failure of some event or circumstance. In my report this expression certainly applies to the recent types of building and grounds needs and the stepping up of employees and volunteers doing good things just at the right time! Appreciation goes out to all!

Buildings (may be some duplication from prior reports)

1. *Parish Hall:* Tiling of the ceiling after demolition of old tiles, fixtures, and bulbs is near completion. Notice the new fixtures and LED lamps as well as tiles. The Vestry approved Green Valley Electric's fixture and LED costs. The lead sexton and assistants did the demolition, electrical prep, and replacement of tiles. (John Colip, Clark Green, Deana Bond). Left to do is carpet cleaning to make the Hall sparkle.

2. *Chapel:* The non-working amplifier that operates the induction loop capability of some hearing aids was evaluated. The wiring in the Chapel was the problem and is being remediated (Neal Hursh, OTOjOY, Green Valley Electric).

3. *Church Nave:* To enhance the lighting emitted from the large, wrought iron chandeliers and side wall sconces, CFL bulbs are being replaced by LED bulbs (John Colip, Deana Bond, Clark Green). Though back-ordered, the bulbs are due to arrive soon. It is believed that the buzzing noise experienced by people with hearing aids with induction loop capabilities may be reduced by using all LED bulbs.

4. *Reception Office:* Be pleasantly surprised at the transformation. A gently-used oak cabinet matching other furniture now houses the mailbox slots, provides storage space, and offers a writing surface. Wall art depicting the Church and the Southwest now grace the walls. Of special note is a newly-framed Prayer of St. Francis penned in calligraphy by the late Charlie Reppenhagen. It has been hung and greets all who enter this welcoming, reception space. (Susan Davis in collaboration with Father

Warren). The wall where the mailboxes were will soon be painted and other artwork hung.

Grounds

1. *Downspout Covers and Crosses:* After a number of reports of parishioners tripping on the gutter downspouts extending into the courtyard, wooden covers have been crafted, painted, and installed over them. (Craig Reid) (John Colip, Sue Whitney). Adding to the benefit of preventing trips and falls, these covers are being decorated with relevant crosses. Watch future newsletters and other spaces around the Church for descriptions and significances of each of the crosses. (Craig Reid).

2. *Overall Grounds Care and Support:* Drainage cleanup and weed control are items of activity as well as the gift of timely support to other volunteer parishioners. (Craig Reid). Special areas—Memorial Garden, the Labyrinth, Claire's Garden, and the Courtyard trees and plants—warrant more water and cleanup during the hotter summer months. (Reg Kahrimanis, Chris Arundell, Gary La Barre, Nancy Albin, Sue Whitney, Arlene Stremming, Joyce and Vince Remillard). A talented, former master gardener, also a parishioner, is working on site and design plans for potential development and care of these special areas. (Reg Kahrimanis). To make watering more effective and efficient, hoses on reels and multiple, 20-gallon watering bags, all donated, are being used.

In gratitude for good work and right timing,

Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

kmenix18@gmail.com

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.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!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Edna Dunn
- 3 Glenn Matto
- 4 Karen Packer
- 6 Carolee Castro
- 6 David Dunn
- 10 John Stanford
- 12 Marjorie Gardner
- 13 Shirley Gough
- 13 Julie Ratley
- 13 Sharon Thornby
- 14 Hal 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
- 20 Gloria Cadwalader
- 21 James Luffman
- 22 Bill Barkley
- 22 Sandra Hammond
- 23 Lucy Nielsen
- 24 Donald Champlin
- 26 Janice MacLaren
- 26 Jean Schwafel
- 26 Kaye Tinney
- 27 Cheryl Tardy-Albin
- 27 Penelope Williams
- 30 Jan Koltun
- 31 Jean McEachran

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Swain, Alan & Allana
- 6 Harby, Deborah & Matthew
- 7 Lyons, Harry & Carol
- 12 Challman, John & Mary
- 12 Tardy-Albin, Cheryl & Nancy
- 19 Ravine, Stan & Kathy

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Virginia Biondi
- 6 Kristi Menix
- 7 Nancy Albin
- 7 John Davis
- 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
- 18 Joan Archibald
- 19 Weston Barnes
- 19 Darlene Gregory
- 19 Kenneth Nielsen
- 20 Ric Pike
- 20 Charles Tripp
- 20 Ginny Wagner
- 21 Patricia Parr
- 22 Donald Richards
- 23 David Barnes
- 23 Barbara Phillips
- 24 Nancy Enzie
- 24 Jonell Kotouc
- 25 Richard Tinney
- 25 Phil Vande-Riet
- 26 David Blackburn
- 29 Roberta Davis
- 29 Mike Kerns

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Day, Mark & Paige
- 4 Williams, Roger & Penelope
- 6 Hickman, Nancy & Steve
- 8 Howell, Larry & Sue
- 9 Quick, Al & Brenda
- 10 Symons, Nancy & Bill
- 17 Findley, Stu & Marilyn
- 17 Thornby, Robert & Sharon
- 18 Messick, Neil & Hart, Mary
- 18 Vint, Robert & Katherine
- 19 Helgath, Neil & Nancy
- 20 Aasen, Hal & Moore, Lou
- 20 Hook, Ed & Barbara
- 23 Travis, Ben & Jan
- 27 McGibbon, William & Nancy
- 30 Anderson, Frank & Phebe
- 30 Scott, Don & Virginia
- 31 Altamirano, Rolando & Paula
- 31 Miller, Roger & Barbara

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



Digital Instruments

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perb organist—Randall Mullin—playing my *Carillon on a Ukranian Carol* on one of the great French classic instruments; but he's in his own living room.) The cost of digital instruments, especially the organ, is but a fraction of the cost of a comparable pipe organ. Lest anyone think I'm promoting electronic substitutes over real, acoustic instruments, rest assured I'm not. As good as the digital instruments are (and I work with them all the time as a composer) the genuine article will always be better. That said, the digital substitutes make my life as a composer easier, even though I know the sound of the real thing will be better.

We have a digital organ at St. Francis and, thanks to the way it's installed (or the way it has been re-installed) the sound is amazingly good. Can you tell it's not a pipe organ? To the trained ear, yes.

The problem with technology is, of course, that it becomes outdated. Anyone who has had to buy a new computer to replace an old one knows what I mean. The organ also has physical components that simply wear out and, as is often the case, cannot be replaced. The organ here at St. Francis needs to be replaced. It is, essentially, a twenty year old computer, as Neal Hursh has reminded me. It still sounds pretty good (although the new technology and sampling is far better) but the physical components are wearing out.

We'll have more to say in the next Newsletter. Thanks for reading.

Gerald

Fun Brainstorming Question from the Community

As we begin to expand our activities in the greater community, Fr. Nelson would like to receive your suggestions and recommendations for your favorite coffee shops, food joints, and hangouts. He is especially looking for local businesses around Green Valley, Sahuarita, Madera Highlands that don't mind him sitting for a bit to speak casually with guests/strangers. If you're familiar with "Pop-Up Priest" model, he'd like to find places where the Spirit is already alive in the community so that we might meet our community where they are already living, playing, and thriving. Send your suggestion to him at nelson@stfrancisgvaz.org

2021 Parish Statistics New Members by Confirmation or Reception

000

Transfers In

Rena Robbins
Laura Thomas
Joyce Davison

Deaths

Max Mayes
Nancy Gardner
Kathy Helgeson
Vern Hughes
Janet Corton
Patrick Ongley
Virginia Golden



A Message From Your Vestry

At the June Vestry meeting, as one of the first parts of developing the Church's Emergency Preparedness Plan and protocol, the Vestry unanimously passed the following resolution:

•In accordance with Resolution #2012-D003 passed by the General Convention of the National Episcopal Church and adopted by the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church declares that St. Francis in the Valley Church and all Church property as a Gun Free and Weapons Free Zone.

The Vestry thoroughly discussed and carefully considered the various views on this issue over three meetings and it was felt that this decision was in accord with the Church continuing to be seen as a sacred and safe place—a sanctuary where people can come for prayer and healing.

Acknowledging that there are strong opinions with valid points on both sides of this issue, this policy will be implemented in the spirit of gaining cooperation and within the context of a total Emergency Preparedness Plan. More information and details will become available as we continue working on this Plan.

Your Vestry hopes and prays that all Church members will understand the need for a policy and respect the deliberations that brought it to adopt this provision in light of the National Church's and Arizona Diocese's guidance.

Bobbi Tucker,

Clerk of the Vestry

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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