



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. 5

May/June 2021

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

Words From Warren . . . EASTERTIDE/PENTECOST 2021

Dear Friends,
We are finally open!!

For more than a year we have not been able to worship inside the church building, just in time for the hot weather to start. I know many will miss the beautiful outside services with the sun and the singing birds. We have been so blessed to have had only one bad weather day since mid-October.

While we worship inside we continue under phase 2.5 of the diocesan COVID 19 protocols. Masks must be worn, social distancing adhered to by using every second pew, and reservations continue to allow us to know who is present in the event that someone has COVID 19. However, as of May 1, we are allowed to sing in the church and gather in the courtyard for refreshments after the service! We look forward to more loosening of restrictions, hopefully later in the Fall.

Speaking of the Fall, I finally have a date for my Installation Service as Rector. It will be on Saturday October 9th at 3 pm, with refreshments after the service. My hope is that more seating in the church will be permitted by October. This will also be my official welcome to the Parish, and (almost) my first anniversary as Rector!

New Greeters & Ushers: Now that we are in the church, the COVID 19 protocols require more helping hands to register people, take temperatures, and seat people in the pews. If you are interested in helping once a month or so, please let me know.

Refreshment Time: We can use extra helpers during the post-service social time. The protocols require modified ways food and drink are served, and extra hands are needed.

Altar Guild: Now that we are back in our beautiful church, the Altar Guild could use more helpers to be part of a rotating schedule. If you have never been in an Altar or Chancel Guild, we would be happy to teach you. Please speak to me or Norma Pool.

Finances: We have been blessed by so many who continue to contribute to our Parish through their ESTIMATE OF GIVING or through regular donations. You have helped us weather the worst of the pandemic storm. Thank you, thank you!

Just as a reminder, it is never too late to send in your ESTIMATE OF GIVING for 2021. Simply contact Deborah Harby at deborah@stfrancisgvaz.org, or call her at the office. No need to fill out a card.

Streamed Services: The pandemic taught us the value of live streaming our worship services. We will continue to do so. I hope that some of our winter worshippers who have now gone home will continue to join us on Sundays, or at least catch up with us through our recorded services on YouTube.

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Words From Warren, continued

New Study: With permission from Robbin Brent from LIVING COMPASS, I will be allowed to use a new study called CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES AND WELL BEING. This study begins on Wednesday, June 2, at 10 AM on Zoom. The booklet is not yet published, but I will be able to share a PDF of it. If interested, please email me (frwarren@stfrancisgvaz.org). There are four sessions.

Blessings to all,

Fr. Warren

Outreach

Parishioners continue to give generously to the Outreach Food Bank project. During the month of March more than 350 pounds of rice, beans, pasta and pasta sauce were delivered to the Community Food bank due to the kindness of St. Francis Parishioners. In April an equal number of pounds of fruits, vegetables and soups were delivered. In May we'll begin to deliver diapers and baby things The Outreach group also donated \$1000 to enable Food Bank staff to purchase food.

Because the tax deadline has been extended to May 15 we are also hoping that more parishioners will decide to assign their Arizona taxes to the Food Bank. Food insecurity is a major issue during this pandemic.

Women's clothing is still collected for Casa Paloma and distributed to those who are homeless and staying in that facility. Birthday gift cards are also given to the women. We are awaiting more migration information, but in the meantime we are collecting backpacks and individual hand sanitizers for the asylum seekers who are temporarily housed at the INN and at CASAS ALITAS.

For the second year we have missed filling Easter baskets for the children at the Nogales Mission but we were able to send a \$250 check to help with their Easter dinner.

In May Outreach is asking for diapers in sizes 4, 5 and 6 as well as baby food and baby wipes. As always, the food basket is at the entrance to the courtyard every day. However, there will be no Saturday collection. Food baskets will now be available at the door off the courtyard which will be open to everyone who comes back to INSIDE church.

Gerald has been the Outreach arm to the congregation through the bulletin, the Staff and News from the Pews. Outreach could not function without his help.

Parish Offices will be closed . . .

Memorial Day

Monday, 31 May

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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

www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz

THE RT. REV. JENNIFER REDDALL,

Bishop

THE REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH

Rector

The Rev. Nelson Mendoza

Curate

The Rev. Becky Williamson

Deacon

THE VESTRY

Julie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

Ginny Arundell, Marybeth Bates, Barbara Bundy,

Sandy Eckstein, Janie Hessong, Glenn Matto,

Helen Mullaly, Vince Remillard, Cheryl Tardy-Albin

ex officio: Erik Ringkjøb, Treasurer

Bobbi Tucker, Clerk

CHURCH STAFF

Gerald Near

Parish Administrator

Deborah Harby

Financial Officer

Gerald Near

Director of Music

J. Michael Case

Organist

Sharlyn Matthews

Director Emeritus, Handbell Ensemble

Sophia Witte

Handbell Ensemble Director

John Colip

Head Sexton

Susan Whitney, Clyde Tardy

Assistant Sextons

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in the world.*

*From Our Curate,
The Rev. Nelson Mendoza*
FINDING A HOME

Last Friday I was on my way to have lunch with the chaplain for University of Arizona, The Rev. Benjamin Garren. During my commute, I received a surprise phone call from my property manager who I rent from and she notified me that the landlord who I rent from was planning to sell my unit at the end of my contract.

At the end of May.

In fewer than 45 days.

As you can imagine, this stirred up a flurry of emotions that ranged from surprise, sadness, annoyance, anger, and beyond. The place I had just started to get comfortable calling “home” was being pulled from underneath me and I now had a very limited timeline in order to find a new place, pack, move, and resettle.

The most heartbreaking part of this is that I had just started to love the place I had been living in. Trying to nest during a pandemic was challenging. From trying to get furniture delivered despite shortages and then figuring out a whole new city after moving from Austin, there were so many road bumps.

And then of course there’s the grief of losing my wonderful neighbors whom I had just started to get to know and who were inviting me for backyard gatherings and front porch chats. There’s a lot of loss that goes into “moving” and by extension finding a new home.

Spoiler Alert: I was able to find a nice studio in downtown Tucson but I am losing about half the square feet from where I currently live. And I’m okay with that.

I share all of this drama of finding a new home because I think there’s a parallel with many of our journeys in various ways. Often in life we are presented with unexpected challenges or “curveballs” as they call them. And yet, we find ways to persevere and we learn to adapt.

This past year during the pandemic, we have all found ways to persevere and we have all found ways to find a “new home” in new practices within our personal, professional, and spiritual lives.

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*The St. Francis and Imago Dei
Middle School Partnership*
Part Two

In the past ten plus years that I’ve been involved as a liaison with St. Francis and the Imago Dei Middle School, many good ideas and suggestions have come to fruition, and the partnership between the two that was formed some eleven years ago, at the invitation of the school’s two founders, The Reverends Anne Sawyer and Susan Anderson-Smith, has continued to flourish. We have enjoyed the honor of having a member of St. Francis, either clergy and/or lay, serving on the school’s Board of Trustees consecutively since 2013, beginning with Fr. Dan Messier, followed by me elected in 2015, The Rev. Pam Hyde elected in 2017, and Orji Isiogu elected in 2019.

Following our acceptance into partnership with the school in 2011, our Parish leadership reviewed several suggestions by which our Parish could contribute time, talent and treasure, and a decision was reached in which monies donated by members of the Parish would be used to purchase \$100 Visa Gift Cards to be presented to each of the twenty or so graduating eighth grade scholars each year, thereby recognizing their academic achievements. The gift cards are presented during the Baccalaureate Service and Dinner held the evening prior to Commencement Exercises.

Parishioners making donations for the purchase of the Visa Gift cards are awarded the title “Honorary Grandparents” and are then recognized as such at the school’s Commencement Exercises, affording them the opportunity to meet the graduating 8th grade scholars and their families in attendance.

To become actively involved in Imago Dei and the future of these eighty or so young scholars, please consider making arrangements to visit the school. While there you will get to know the administrative staff and the faculty, and you will discover there is an unbelievable wealth of knowledge and skills already present at their central downtown campus. Spend some real time, one-on-one with the scholars. Audit some of their class time. A real treat is to have them share a place at their table with you during the lunch hour. Discuss with the administrative and faculty staff the skills you have that may

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be of value to the particular curriculum, or life experiences you could share with the scholars' young eager minds.

The main number for the school is (520) 882-4008. Most likely the first voice you hear will be that of Peggy Solis or Rocio Suazo. Or if you wish, feel free to give me a call on my cell at (715) 205-8374 and I will be happy to help you with arrangements to visit the school, and if I'm with you, show you where to go and where to park. I no longer drive, but I'm a pretty good passenger with the ability to give easy-to-follow directions.

You currently have two options by which to make a cash/check donation in support of Imago Dei Middle School and the partnership St. Francis has with it. The most significant option each year is to make a gift to the school through the Arizona Episcopal Schools Foundation as an Arizona Tax Credit. The deadline for filing an Arizona Tax Credit is currently midnight on Monday, 17 May. [Maximum of \$1,183 as an individual contributor, or \$2,335 as a couple filing.] Give me a call if you have questions concerning the Arizona Tax Credit option.

The other option of course is to make a check payable to St. Francis with a notation on the memo line to read: "Imago Dei Graduation Gift." Please put your check in the offering plate or deliver it to the attention of Deborah in the Parish's Finance Office.

Meanwhile stay tuned for an announcement concerning the date and location of this month's Commencement Exercises for the graduating 8th grade scholars. In recent years, St. Francis has had as many as three dozen "Honorary Grandparents" attending the ceremonies. I am confident we can double the number attending this year. Watch each issue of the NEWS FROM THE PEWS for the latest announcement.

Wayne North

Centering Prayer Group

The Centering Prayer Group is meeting once again, but on Zoom rather than in-person. Meetings include 25 minutes of silence followed by a short Lectio Divina and a few minutes for community reflection. If you would like to join in, get in touch with James or Sophie Luffman: James at jmluffman@hotmail.com or Sophie at sophieluffman@hotmail.com. They will be pleased to hear from you.

Senior Warden's Thoughts

Our Vestry is complete as we welcomed Ginny Arundell as our newest member. As we come out of the pandemic, we will be more and more involved in revitalizing our church and its Ministries. We look forward to seeing more and more of our parishioners becoming involved.

We are all delighted that we will be moving inside for worship on May 2. Our usual practice of calling for a reservation and processing through the entrance off the driveway will continue. You will be greeted at the side door by an Usher who will direct you to your seats. Masks are required, but we will be allowed to sing inside. The move inside will come just in time to beat the hot weather. We look forward to your joining us live OR online. For our Online worshippers, you will need to make arrangements to pick up the Hosts with Fr. Nelson or Fr. Warren, as we have discontinued the Saturday distribution.

We look forward to seeing many of you, and for those of you returning to your Summer homes, we look forward to having you return in the Fall.

Happy Spring.

Jullie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Notes

What a wonderful Holy Week it was at St. Francis in the Valley! I hope everyone is having a blessed Eastertide. While in the courtyard for the many beautiful services, you probably heard the birds chirping and had the opportunity to look at the four pin oak trees. Thankfully, they are showing some new green leaves. In the past three weeks, these trees have had the attention of an arborist, and on April 14, that of a tree doctor/surgeon. From their expert assessments and recommendations, these experts have reinforced the need for a seasonally adjusted and correct watering schedule. The past year's drought, which seems to continue, has not been kind to the oaks, or for that matter, to many of the flora on our Church grounds. I am working with the sextons and a few volunteer parishioners to set up and activate an effective watering schedule. We anticipate that the oaks will soon be greening out further. We have been advised to do no pruning right now, and if and when any can be done, it will need to be done in a specific way for live oak.

Carpet One Flooring teams have completed (April 15) the installation of luxury vinyl plank flooring in place of the old tile floor in the Parish Hall and short hall by the kitchen and storage cabinets. They had to grind down some of the elevated areas of concrete in order to level the it for the new floor application. The new floor is called a “floating” floor where the waterproof planks click and lock together with no glue application. The new flooring transforms the look of our beloved fellowship hall!

The renovation of portions of the office complex is mostly complete. Wall art has been hung in various areas. Soon a print of the Prayer of St. Francis featuring the calligraphy talents of late parishioner, Charlie Reppenhagen, will grace the walls of the reception office. In particular, the large room outside of Father Warren’s and Father Nelson’s offices, referred to as Madeline’s Room in honor of a former parishioner, is transformed with new paint, a sitting area, a refreshment sideboard, and a small table for lunch and small work projects. This room radiates St. Francis hospitality to all who enter.

Craig Reid and a dedicated cadre of volunteers continue to maintain the function and beauty of our Church grounds. Weed management is the current priority for Craig. Other volunteers are providing upkeep and care for the Labyrinth, Memorial Garden, Clare’s Garden, and Church entrance plant beds. Our sextons are caring for the raised flora beds and the other plant beds in the courtyard and outside of the office complex. Thank you, all!

Future projects include replacement of the ceiling tiles, light fixtures, and bulbs in the Parish Hall, a provision of an ethernet connection into the Church proper to ensure effective live streaming of upcoming services, and completion of improved lighting in the Choir Loft.

It is an honor to serve as the St. Francis Junior Warden. Thank you to clergy, staff, Vestry, parishioner volunteers, and other parishioners for your good work and support.

Kristi Menix, Junior Warden
kmenix18@gmail.com

Prayer Chain

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

Making Reservations for Attendance at Services

We are overjoyed to be once again worshipping in our church proper (service time 9 AM). Even though we are definitely making progress toward a return to normalcy, there are still restrictions to be observed. We must continue to bring and wear our masks and remember to practice social distancing (unless you are a couple). Reservations will still be necessary until we are otherwise informed by the Diocese. Reserve your place with the Parish Administrator via email (preferred), at *gerald@stfranciscgvaz.org* or, alternatively, you may call the Parish Office—520-625-1370—and leave a message for Parish Administrator Gerald Near. Please be sure to include first and last names of worshippers as well the date of the service you wish to attend. (We are not able to take reservations for multiple services, only the next service upcoming.) We will not reply to your email, or phone call, unless we are at capacity. Please remember the weekly deadline for reservations is, and will continue to be, Thursdays at 2 PM.

Please Note: Beginning this month we will no longer be offering ‘communion to go’ in its present format (i.e. picking up a communion wafer here at the Church on Saturday afternoons). If you need a wafer, please contact Fr. Warren (*frwarren@stfranciscgvaz.org*), Father Nelson (*nelson@stfranciscgvaz.org*), or Deacon Becky (*1beckyw@cox.net*) and they will make arrangements for you to pick one up at the Parish Office. (You may also leave a phone message for the Clergy at 520-625-1370.) Sunday service leaflets will be available Saturdays on the bench outside the Parish Office.

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!

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Kim Moss
3 Judy Craig
3 Bonnie Selcho
4 Carol Berg
4 Reg Kahrimanis
5 Glenda Brown
5 Joseph Chidester
5 Bruce Folkers
7 George Grove
9 Pamela Hyde
12 Kim DeMarco
13 Robert Ashley
13 Joyce Kaminski
13 Harry Lyons
14 Kelly Smith
16 Carolyn Gates
16 Dorothy North
16 Judy Richards
17 Neil Helgath
17 Henry Ramirez
18 Joan Henley
19 Jennifer Skelton
21 Louise Hursh
21 Don Misner
22 Patricia Mabie
22 Robert Thornby
23 Shoo Adams
23 Mary Ellen Benarth
23 Gail Haight
24 Grace Marben
24 Dick Sampson
26 Julianne Reppenhagen
26 Allana Swain
27 Janet Graff
27 Carol Lyons
28 Terri Chavez
28 William Wells
28 Dorothy Zimmerman
29 Cayo De Mendoza
30 Nancy Secaur

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5 Beth-el Klein & Phillip Batwin
8 Ann Paulson & Ramon Silva
13 Neal & Louise Hursh
17 James & Pamela Barnes
19 Julie & Ken Breitenbucher
24 Mark & Sandy Eckstein
28 Charles & Marjorie Gardner

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 Sherri Cadeaux
1 Linda Pantoja

1 Lila Stoffel
3 Jack Gardner
3 Carolyn Moorehead
4 Christopher Green
4 William Symons
5 George Schappach
7 Joyce Bair
8 Marie Miller
9 Barbara Adams
9 Joseph Turberg
13 Ted Bair
13 Nancy Symons
15 Craig Reid
16 Barbara Miller
19 Victor Stevens-Rosenberg
19 Ben Travis
20 Gary Jacobs
20 Bernie Ravenelle
20 Erik Ringkjob
20 Louisa Terry
22 Ronda Stanford
23 Jan Gaylord
24 Roger Hinterthuer
25 Deborah Harby
26 Mike Gaydos
26 Mona Kiefer
27 Anne Charter
27 Wendy Hill
27 Roger Miller
27 Donna Sheridan
27 Robert Tenney
28 John Challman
28 Bob Ogus
28 Al Quick
29 Susan Davis
29 Shirley Ryan
29 Carol Vleck

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

1 George Grove & Lou Terry
2 William & Diane Holt
4 Nancy & Mike Kerns
4 Joe & Rae Turberg
5 James & Sophie Luffman
6 Ken & Sib Barratt
8 Jim & Judy Bush
8 Lila & Alex Stoffel
15 Vincent & Joyce Remillard
18 Orji & Jenny Isiogu
18 Fred & Kathleen Keller
22 Linda Berg & Kenneth Witte
23 Eloy & Justine Saavedra
24 Greg & Kim Moss

26 John & Karen Packer
26 Robert & Susan Tenney
30 Lucy & Kenneth Nielsen

*From Our Curate
continued from page 3*

In particular, as a Curate, I have grown in my amazement in how flexible this St. Francis community has been as well as how firm your faith has been.

The first year of my curacy has been a blessing and I am looking forward to what the remainder of my time with this lovely community may have in store. We all have learned to shift our expectations and how to practice new things that renew us.

When we were all hit with an unexpected "you have to change your way of life" we all adapted and found a "new home" so I hope that we continue to adopt this practice of resiliency.

Nelson+

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

Covenant Fund

Thanks to the COVID pandemic we were not able this year to schedule our traditional Christmas Card Party, the annual event that raises money for the St. Francis Covenant Fund. The fund—administered by the Rector—was established in 1993 by Dorothy Baldwin to provide temporary financial aid for needy St. Francis Parishioners.

The need is still with us, pandemics notwithstanding, and you can do your part to relieve the suffering by dropping off a check to Finance Officer Deborah Harby, or you can contribute online through the Parish website. The need this year is even greater, so please help if you can.

Amazon Smile

If you purchase goods from Amazon.com (and who doesn't?), a percentage of the price can be sent to your favorite charity (or church - hint, hint) as a donation. All you have to do is sign up for Amazon Smile. Talk about easy money! Try it.



Clergy Discretionary Funds

Donations to Clergy Discretionary Funds are always welcome; these funds help us to offer assistance to people in our community who are struggling. Because of your generosity we've been able to help people with such things as food, gas, utilities, rent, school clothing, school supplies, unexpected medical bills and burial expenses. As we see it, it's not the clergy being able to help people in need, it's all of us, together, touching the lives of people who feel like they've hit a dead end due to adverse circumstances in life. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Meeting Rooms are Open for Parish Use

Church remains closed for worship, but our meeting rooms are available for small church groups to meet carefully for church business. We are still not open for community-use groups. Here are the guidelines to host a meeting:

1. Contact Gerald Near via St. Francis' phone number 520-625-1370 to schedule the date, time and room for your meeting. Gerald will arrange for the Sextons to sanitize the room before and after use.

2. Up to 10 people may participate in the meeting. Participants will wear masks and maintain social distance while on church premises.

Do we have...

your@e-mail.address?

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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