



Looking Ahead

VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE

Sunday, November 10

THANKSGIVING DAY

Thursday, November 28

Thanksgiving Service, 11:30 AM

Thanksgiving Dinner, 1 PM

ADVENT STUDY

Living Well Through Advent 2024

Tuesdays, December 3, 10, and 17

at 11:30 AM

in the Parish Hall

FESTIVAL OF TREES

December 6, 7 and 8

TRUE CONCORD

LESSONS & CAROLS

Friday, December 13, 7 PM

CHRISTMAS CARD PARTY

Wednesday, December 18, 5 PM

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday, December xxx, 3 PM

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24, 6 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25, 9 AM

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. 61, No. 6

November/December 2024

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

Words From Warren . . .

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving will soon be here ushering in the holiday season. There will be gatherings of family and friends. The house will be filled with aromas of many foods. Of course, no holiday meal is complete without a variety of scrumptious desserts such as pumpkin and apple pies and all kinds of treats.

The holidays for me bring back memories of times at grandma's house with the men watching football on the TV and kids running around the yard and house, while the sounds and smells of cooking come from the kitchen.

We tend to romanticize the past when life seemed simpler. When we were children, we had no cares. We didn't worry about world affairs because our world revolved around our families and neighborhood. Our only concern was when could we go play with our friends.

Life seems more complicated now with lots of responsibilities and concerns. Yet even with all that is going on in our country and in the world, the joys we experienced as children still exist.

The beauty of a sunrise or sunset still stirs our hearts. The sound of waves crashing along a shore or the sound of birds in the morning connect us to God's Creation. Cuddling with our dog or cat warms our heart and brings us joy. Even watching toddlers play and discover the world for the first time make us feel happy.

The world may have changed since we were children, but one thing hasn't changed—God's love for us. God gave us life and

continued next page

Words From Warren, continued

continues to bless us. The joys of the world we experienced as children still exist. We have just lost sight of them by growing up and being too busy.

Take time this Thanksgiving and Christmas to reconnect with your inner child. Rediscover the blessings all around us and give thanks to God with a joyful heart.

Blessings and peace,

Fr. Warren

Franciscan Focus

I shared my sermon on September 1 with stories of three women about their ministries reflecting Franciscan values. This is Rena's spiritual story as one reminder. May it bless you as the others can do.

Fr. Tom

WHY I DO WHAT I DO

First, I don't know that I can explain what it means exactly to help someone. For me I think it's how I experience God. In a way, when I send a birthday to a woman at Perryville prison, it's acknowledging a human being who has been discarded, counted out. Or, when I handed food to a family shopping in a food pantry who was struggling to make ends meet, and food budgets are really the only place you can cut corners because the landlord won't accept partial rent, or the electric company won't accept a half payment, I am doing a small thing in the way I think Jesus would do it. It really has nothing to do with me, I am a facilitator or a conduit to how Jesus teaches we should be treating other people. The way I see it, it all comes from God, and my job is to get out of the way and let it happen. It makes happy to get out of my own head and get out of thinking about me, to instead be thinking about someone else, or not actually thinking at all, just doing it. It's not up to me to decide your value based on your circumstance. It's only my job to realize your dignity, your value, your worth as a human being. It also affords me the opportunity to dig in and try to understand your situation, the root causes, and is there some action I can take to alleviate those causes. Maybe, only in a very small way. Maybe I can't change the big picture, but I know I can try to do my little part. Really the world does not center around me at

continued page 3, column 1

THE FRANCISCAN STAFF

Published bi-monthly

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, D.D.

Bishop

THE VERY REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH

Rector

The Rev. Becky Williamson

Deacon

The Rev. Linda Hutson

Deacon

Barb Lopes

Deacon Intern

Glenn Matto

Verger

THE VESTRY

Gary LaBarre, Senior Warden

Jim Ratley, Junior Warden

Alice Walker, Joyce Davison,

Joyce Kaminski, Glenn Matto,

Phil Vande-Reit, Rena Robbins, Jean Ross,

Cheryl Tardy-Albin, Bobbi Tucker,

ex officio: Gloria Cadwalader, Treasurer

Lou Terry, Clerk

CHURCH STAFF

Deborah Harby

Office Manager

Gerald Near

Communications

Director of Music

Megan McAllister

Financial Assistant

J. Michael Case

Organist

Sharlyn Matthews

Director Emeritus, Handbell Ensemble

Sophia Witte

Handbell Ensemble Director

Matthew Harby

Lead Sexton

*The mission of St. Francis in the Valley,
Green Valley, is to live as Christ's heart and hands
in the world.*

all, what a shock.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Rena Robbins

Festival of Trees

December is right around the corner and so is the first ever Festival of Trees hosted by St. Francis and supported by community organizations, including the Green Valley/Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce, the Green Valley News/Sahuarita Sun and the White Elephant.

Picture a slightly chilly evening—the first Friday in December. You are standing on the sidewalk in front of St. Francis. Beautifully decorated Christmas trees fill the area between the church and the street, the courtyard is filled with more trees, and you have even caught a glimpse of Christmas trees in the Parish Hall. A crowd is gathering and as the sun slowly sets, Father Warren with the assistance of community leaders flips a switch and the Christmas trees—there must be twenty-five or thirty of them—are ablaze with what seems like millions of lights.

The air is filled with familiar carols as the gates into the courtyard open and folks—old and young, families and friends, grandparents, parents and children—file in to ooh and aah over the trees, each sponsored and decorated by a Green Valley or Sahuarita service organization. The air is filled with the enchantment of Christmas as folks admire the trees and then make their way into the Parish Hall where more trees, a table filled with gourmet baked goods, a gift basket silent auction, and so much more, and yes—Santa Claus—await.

The Festival of Trees is being hosted by St. Francis in the Valley to bring the Green Valley/Sahuarita community together and share the magic of the Christmas season. The dates are Friday, December 6 from 5 to 9 PM with the opening ceremony at 5 PM; Saturday, December 7 from 2 to 9 PM; and Sunday, December 8 from 2 to 5 PM. Each Christmas tree will be sponsored and decorated by a local service organi-

zation, and each will be vying for the prize of best decorated tree as decided by the folks who come to enjoy the Festival.

If you would like to be a part of the Festival of Trees team, talk with Tommy and Craig Reid, Festival coordinators. There is always room for one more elf.

Boutique Holiday Shopping

St. Francis offers a unique opportunity to its parishioners by having a Boutique on its campus that sells quality unique merchandise at discount prices, and serves as one of St. Francis' missions, with all profits going to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. That Fund is used solely to assist the needy in our Green Valley Community. Special holidays will soon be here and the Boutique is offering beautiful Thanksgiving and Christmas items, including a variety of unique Creche sets, St. Francis statuary, Anglican Rosaries, crosses of all sizes, holiday candles, jewelry and accessories—many choices from which to choose in finding that special gift. Open every Sunday following the 9 o'clock service, it's easy shopping, so grab your coffee and come check us out. Managers/volunteers of the Boutique are Wendy Hill, Jylene Wright, Annette Leibovitch, and Jill Mulligan. *Jylene Wright*

How to Access Service Videos

Go to the Parish website (www.stfrancisgvaz.org), on the "HOME" page, scroll down to the bottom of the page where you will see the current video, click on the arrow ► green "Livestream" box to start the video, and enjoy!

Parish Offices will be closed...

Veterans Day	Monday, 11 November
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, 28 November
Christmas Day	Wednesday, 25 December

Prayer Chain

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

Senior Warden's Thoughts

HOW ARE WE MEASURING UP?

I am increasingly concerned, as I'm sure you are as well, with the increasing anger, vitriol and divisiveness that has happened in our nation over the past few years. Our sense of tolerance and ability to get along with people who think, act or look different from us has diminished, and the current rhetoric before the upcoming election has sharpened that issue even more. I pray daily that the outcome of the election doesn't create an even worse scenario than what we already have. We, as followers of Christ and imitators of St. Francis have a clear mandate how we are to relate to each other, and I was reminded of it again in the readings during the Eucharist at the Diocesan Convention. There is no better Google map than this one: Romans 12:9-18. I have promised myself to read it weekly as a reminder, and would urge you to take a good look at it.

By the way, I'm still curious how your getting to know people in our congregation that you don't know well is coming along. Sure would like to hear from you.

Gary LaBarre, Senior Warden

Social Activities Team

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

The Social Activities Team (SAT) is planning some really special activities for November and December.

Thanksgiving Dinner—Thursday, November 28, at 1 PM. Join us for a wonderful array of dishes (even salmon) prepared by our SAT Chefs Tim, Mitzi and Tish. Signups will begin after church on October 27 and the cost will be donations on the day of the event.

Bishop Reddall will be visiting St. Francis on Sunday, December 15. Join us for a sandwich lunch after church in the Parish Hall to meet and greet the Bishop. It's a very special time for our Parish.

Our Annual Christmas Card Party, in aid of the Covenant Fund, will be on Wednesday, De-

ember 18, at 5 PM. Everyone is asked to bring a Christmas card for their friends in St. Francis to hang on our Christmas trees along with a donation for the Covenant Fund to assist parishioners in need. There will be wonderful appetizers for everyone to enjoy. It will be a very special evening.

A peek into January brings our Epiphany Party on Friday, January 7, 2025 at 5 PM. Mark your calendars now.

We hope you'll be able to share the fun with your St. Francis friends this Holiday Season. And bring a guest as well.

For all our SAT events, the sign-up sheets will be in the Parish Hall on Sundays or call or visit the Parish Office during the week.

If you'd like to help out with any of our activities, contact Tisha Stril at tishastril@gmail.com or Julie Reppenhagen at jrepp@snet.net. Your Social Activities Team looks forward to seeing you all. Happy Holidays! ❄️

Heart & Hands

▶ **SISTER JOSE'S WOMEN'S SHELTER:** The shelter accepts donations of sneakers as well as unused hotel size personal items. Women not staying at the shelter can also go to the shelter to shower, wash their clothes and have a meal. Follow the expansion project which is adding more rooms, bathrooms and expanded dining room on their Facebook and Instagram sites. Money donations are always welcome.

▶ **FOOD BANKS:** The food bank is requesting canned meat products, vegetables, fruits, soups, and tomato products (low sodium, if possible). You can deposit your donations in the boxes outside the Parish Hall, one at the front door and another at the south door near the Chapel. Your offerings will be blessed on the first Sunday of each month.

▶ The Sahuarita Food Bank collects cardboard, including cereal box styles as well as clean milk cartons. The receptacle is located on the south side of the Food Bank, beside the Good Shepherd Church on La Cañada.

► Bring your Reusable grocery bags and Dollar Store bags and put them in the KINO box in Donations room. These bags will be put to good use by people returning home to Mexico. They could also use travel sized hygiene products, especially bar soap.

Money is always welcome for any of our ministries—simply write your check payable to St. Francis with the ministry name in the memo line and we'll take care of the rest. Drop your check in the Offering Basket on Sunday morning, or drop it off at the Parish Office during the week.

And most importantly—if you have a Passion for a Ministry—bring your voice to a Heart and Hands meeting the third Monday of the month at 10 AM in Meeting Room 2 across the hall from the Library. Money is always welcome for any of our ministries; simply write your check payable to St. Francis with the ministry name in the memo line and we'll take care of the rest. Drop your check in the Offering Basket on Sunday morning, or drop it off at the Parish Office during the week. ✝

Reimagine St. Francis Update

On Saturday, September 28, we welcomed Karen Gusse who facilitated a townhall discussion. Three recommendations came out of the meeting:

1. Continue enhancing Welcoming and Inclusion
2. Including some contemporary music each month
3. Focus in on some key outreach programs that can be unique to St. Francis

I would like to create three focus groups to continue the discussions we started in September. Another Townhall meeting will be held early in the New Year.

The first focus group will be on how we can better connect and welcome people from our community and involve them in our Parish. What needs to be in place for them? For example, what programs and activities need to be established for people who work during the day

and for parents with children? What about Hispanic families? If you would like to be included in this focus group, please let me know.

I will be including a study of the book, *RADICAL WELCOME: Embracing God, The Other, and the Spirit of Transformation*, by Stephanie Spellers, as part of the discussions. This focus group will start after New Years. More information to come.

On the second point regarding music, I first want to offer a big thank you to Gerald Near and Michael Case for the wonderful music we enjoy at St. Francis. The music enhances our Episcopal liturgy and helps focus our hearts for worship.

With Gerald's input and support, our Saturday music team will be looking at dates to include periodic contemporary music to our Sunday worship. Tentative dates of November 17 or 24 will be the music team's first playing. If you have hidden vocal or instrumental musical talents, please let me know.

The focus group will be on outreach. The workshop acknowledged the tremendous work HEART AND HANDS currently does. Upon discussion, many wondered if there could be more focus of efforts. What that may mean will be part of an outreach focus group.

I look forward to continuing the Reimagine discussions. *Fr. Warren*

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

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharistic celebrations are scheduled for November 9 and December 14 at 4 PM in the Parish Hall.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 – Pat Richey
- 7 – Lynann Taylor
- 10 – April Cole
- 12 – Sophia Witte
- 13 – Sue Girardeau
- 15 – Jane Barkley
- 15 – Martha Jones
- 16 – Connie Wilt
- 18 – Linda Rogers
- 21 – Roberta Tucker
- 21 – Donna Wangard
- 22 – Bill Ryan
- 23 – Frank Davidson
- 23 – Roger Williams
- 24 – Fr. Warren
- 25 – Ann Brodt
- 26 – Marilyn Findley
- 27 – Diane Holt
- 27 – Stephen Schwarzmann
- 27 – Diane Ward

November ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 – Leon & Linda Lies
- 9 – Stephen & Diane Schwarzmann
- 12 – Ann Brodt & George BurrIDGE
- 19 – Barry & Donna Sheridan
- 25 – Susanne Reed & Victor Stevens-Rosenberg
- 30 – John & Martha Smith

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Judy Turberg
- 3 – Linda Schawel
- 4 – Carol Sand
- 5 – Justine Saavedra
- 6 – Steve Smith
- 7 – Jesse Figueroa

- 8 – Christopher Nye
- 9 – Neal Hursh
- 12 – Ann Burton
- 14 – Mizzi Diamond
- 15 – Arnie Berglund
- 16 – Bea Dow
- 16 – Susi Partlow
- 18 – Maureen Matto
- 20 – Ann Zublin
- 22 – Rae Turberg
- 23 – Jean Cram
- 24 – Jeanne Jones
- 24 – Sandy Russell
- 26 – Brenda Quick
- 27 – Mary Hale
- 27 – Janice Hall
- 28 – Dick Allison
- 29 – Doris Nason
- 29 – Richard Sand
- 30 – Jenny Ryan
- 31 – Carrie Malone

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 – Jim & Nancy McGuire
- 3 – Steve & Ann Burton
- 12 – Victor & Mary Levine
- 17 – Bill & Jane Barkley
- 17 – Michael & Mary Staples
- 18 – David & Jylene Wright
- 20 – Bill & Jenny Ryan
- 22 – Don & Diane Ward
- 23 – David & Edna Dunn



PARISH GROUP MEETINGS
Altar Guild: meetings called as necessary
Border Ministry: meetings called as necessary
Daughters of the King: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 9:45 AM in the Vulliamy Room
Finance Committee: meetings called as necessary
Green Team: meetings called as necessary
Handbell Ensemble: Mondays, 10 AM in the Choir Loft
Heart & Hands (Outreach): 3rd Monday, 10 AM in the Conference Room
Memorials and Special Gifts: 2nd Wednesday, 10 AM in the St. Francis Room
Men's Group: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 9 AM in the Conference Room
Parish Choir: Thursdays, 2 PM in the Choir Loft
Prison Ministry: meetings called as necessary
Saint Francis Trust: meetings called as necessary
Social Activities Team: 4th Monday, 2:30 PM in the Conference Room
Stephen Ministry: meetings called as necessary
Stewardship Committee: meetings called as necessary
Vestry: 1st Tuesday, 4 PM in the Conference Room

Parish meetings and events are listed in the announcements section of Sunday service leaflets and, via email, in NEWS FROM THE PEWS. If you would like to be added to the email list, contact Finance Officer Deborah Harby (*deborah@stfrancisgvaz.org*) 520-625-1370.

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



2024 Parish Statistics

TRANSFERS IN

Judy Davis
Jim & Nancy McGuire
Jill Mulligan
John Stephenson
James & Paula Moore
Dorothea Berke
Miriam Berke
Alida King

TRANSFERS OUT

Judith M. Craig

DEATHS

Louise Hursh
Dick Kosnick
Joan Henley
Vince Remillard
Norma Pool
Charles Gardner
Bobbie Lawson
BrandE Faupell
Barbara Workman
Robert Bates

Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for November, December, and January (2025) are available in the Parish Office during the week, and on Sunday mornings you can find them in the Parish Hall.



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 La-Barre 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.

A Gift of Flowers

If you would like to give a gift of flowers to be placed on the High Altar in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for many blessings, please call Carol Berg at 520-373-5770 and let her know of your interest. If she is not at home, just leave a message with your name and phone number and she will return your call. Flower donation is \$35.

**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 Office Manager Deborah Harby. 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 Deborah 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 sent via email to the COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE 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 sent via email to the COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE 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
600 South La Cañada Drive
Green Valley AZ 85614

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
Paid
Green Valley AZ
Permit No. 9