



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. 9

November 2020

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

From Fr. Warren . . .

Dear Friends,

It is true! It has finally happened! After a time of waiting made much longer by the pandemic, USCIS approved the Religious Worker (R1) visa! It was a wonderful and welcome surprise!

As I write this article, I am rushing to wind down my ministry in Lindsay, Ontario, and pull together some items to bring to Green Valley for my anticipated November 1st start at St. Francis.

First, I must take a moment to thank Fr. Colville Smythe for the extra time he stayed as Interim-Rector. I cannot express enough gratitude for his patience and for his excellent ministry at St. Francis. I also want to thank Sylvia for her support of Fr. Colville during his extended ministry, and for her encouragement to me and Annette.

I also want to thank the members of the Vestry for their patience and support through the wait. I especially want to thank our Sr. Warden Wayne North who kept in constant contact with me throughout the past year and for keeping an on eye on our house.

It is always a challenge to look for the silver lining in difficult times. The pandemic has been for an unexpected upheaval in the lives of so many people. Lives have been changed and lives have been lost. Church as we know it has also been changed for months to come. Yet in this time of isolation and darkness, there have been successes that continue to move the church forward.

There has been an amazing effort to stay connected. The Telecare ministry has called many members of the parish, Sandy and Mark Eckstein have provided meals to members of the parish as a special outreach, Worship services are recorded and many beyond the parish are getting to know our church, with thanks to Neal Hursh. We have also been blessed to welcome a new Curate, Fr. Nelson Mendoza, to our church, as well as new and prospective members. All of this during the pandemic!

We have learned to use Zoom! There are weekly Coffee Time Zooms, and zoom study groups. Zoom has allowed us to meet in this virtual way allowing us to continue the work of the church. The pandemic has also highlighted the need to upgrade our audio visual system and the need to livestream worship, meetings and lectures.

The time waiting for the visa was not lost time. I have been a regular member of the Men's Group that meets every two week, attended monthly Vestry, Stewardship, Trust Committee and Personnel Committee meetings. I begin my time as Rector well informed and already working on specific needs.

There is much to do, and much more to say. For now I will take the time to get settled and set out a plan with the Vestry, to address our ministry and administrative needs as we continue in a modified form during the pandemic.

continued next page

From Fr. Warren, continued

Thank you for your prayers during the visa wait. I now ask for your continued prayers for me and my family. The pandemic has changed the timing of Annette's arrival. She was to join me by Christmas, but it was our prayerful decision that she stay in Canada for the time being to make sure our boys have a parent close by in case there is a need. We hope that she will be able to come early in the New Year, but the pandemic will be our guiding factor.

I look forward to getting out into the parish and meet you... socially distanced, of course!

Blessings and peace,

Fr. Warren

From Our Curate,
The Rev. Nelson Mendoza
WE ARE MORE THAN CATERPILLARS

There once was a story that goes like this: "Some time ago, a small caterpillar was born. With some difficulty it crawled on the ground from one place to another. Until one day, tired of crawling, it decided to climb a tree. But not just any tree, it chose to climb a tree with a large trunk and dewy leaves. A tree it had played under for years.

The caterpillar climbed and climbed, but then it slipped, fell and could not move forward. But it kept working and step by step, little by little it managed to climb.

It came to a branch it could see the whole valley from. The views were wonderful. It could see other animals, the blue sky with white cotton clouds and, on the horizon, a great sea painted an intense blue. From that branch the caterpillar breathed in peace.

It sat there, observing the world around it, and felt that life was too beautiful to not transform with it. While the caterpillar was tired and, at the same time, grateful for its life as a caterpillar, it knew that the time had come to become something else.

The caterpillar fell asleep, feeling a great peace and thinking about how its destiny was to be something more than a simple caterpillar. It slept and slept, making a chrysalis grow around it, a shell that kept the peace there long enough to become another being.

When it awoke it felt trapped in a heavy shell that didn't allow it to move. It felt something strange had grown on its back. With effort, it moved what looked like huge blue wings and the shell broke.

The caterpillar was no longer a caterpillar, it was a blue butterfly. However, the caterpillar had been a caterpillar for so long that it didn't realize it wasn't a caterpillar anymore.

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

The blue butterfly crawled down the tree using its little legs, even though it now had wings. It carried the weight of those big blue wings, a weight that consumed its strength.

The blue butterfly moved using its legs as it had always done, believing itself to be a caterpillar and continuing to live as if it were. But its wings didn't allow him to move on the ground with as much agility as before.

The butterfly that believed itself to still be a caterpillar didn't understand why its life had become so hard. Tired of carrying the weight of its wings, it decided to return to the branch where it had transformed. This time, trying to climb the tree, moving forward was impossible.

A gust of wind or any other small unexpected occurrence pushed it backward. The butterfly that thought it was still a caterpillar stood still and looked up at that branch that seemed so far away. Then it began to cry, desperate.

Upon hearing its cry, a beautiful, wise white butterfly approached it. The white butterfly perched on a flower and for a while it looked at the blue butterfly without saying anything. When the blue butterfly's crying subsided, the white butterfly said:

"What happened?"

"I can't climb up that branch. Before, even though it was hard, I could do it."

"But if you can't climb up that branch...maybe you can fly to it."

The blue butterfly that thought it was still a caterpillar looked strangely at the white butterfly and then looked at itself and its large, heavy wings. Just as on the day that it came out of his shell, it moved them hard and opened them.

They were so big and beautiful, a color of blue so intense that the transformed caterpillar got scared and quickly closed them again.

"You're wearing down your legs by not using your wings," said the white butterfly, taking flight while opening its wise wings and flying away with elegance.

The blue butterfly watched, amazed at each movement of the white butterfly, and reflected on the white butterfly's words. At that moment, it began to understand that it was no longer a caterpillar, that perhaps those heavy wings could be useful.

The blue butterfly opened them again, and this time kept them open. It closed its eyes and felt the wind caressing them. It felt that those wings were now part of it and accepted that it was no longer a caterpillar, so it could not continue to live as such, crawling on the ground.

Then it opened its wings wider and wider, each time becoming more butterfly and less caterpillar. It observed the beautiful, almost magical blue of its wings. Soon it realized it was flying, it was slowly moving towards the branch.

Flying was much easier than dragging its legs, although it still had to perfect its technique. It discovered that its fear of flying hadn't allowed it to accept who he really was, a caterpillar transformed into a blue butterfly.

This tale of transformation is the story of a butterfly that thought it was still a caterpillar. It's the story of the beautiful blue butterfly, with strong wings, able to fly against the current, in the middle of storms and powerful winds.

The blue butterfly had big, beautiful, blue wings. A blue of many different shades, from the color of the lightest sky to the angriest sea. But it didn't even know."

I wonder, how might we see ourselves in this story of this caterpillar? During this time of great transition for the people of not just St. Francis but also the people of this nation, how might we recognize the stories of transformation and change that are presenting to us?

Are you, like our caterpillar, holding onto ways of being that are limiting your ability to live into what God is calling you to be?

As we continue to journey through uncertain days ahead, I believe it will be important to recognize the stories and the narratives that we have carried within us during our lifetime. We will need to remain resilient like our caterpillar but be open to listening to advice from the wise sages that present in our lives.

Our lives may not always unfold in the way that we had imagined, however, if we trust in God then we will surely find a way to persevere through even the most drastic of life altering changes. Franciscans, we are more than just caterpillars, we are resilient and despite moments of fragility we are also destined for greatness in the Kingdom of God.

In God's Peace,

Nelson+

Senior Warden's Notes

During the early part of the summer, the family of Helen Symes, made an offer to St. Francis, an offer of a piece of art which had been in the family for some time, but most recently in Helen's apartment at La Posada.

In recent months, Helen's health required her to move to a higher level of care at La Posada and was in these new accommodations that it was determined that there was no longer as any room for this particular piece of art to be displayed for her, and her visitors to enjoy.

A couple of months ago, I accepted this gift of art on behalf of St. Francis and it is now displayed on the north side of the Parish Hall. Along with the artwork is a written description of the artist's work in which Sandra Brestel explains how much of the spiritual life of the inhabitants of the Southwest is portrayed in her work.

This piece of art Helen has lovingly donated to St. Francis is a type of triptych format (perhaps symbolic of the Trinity) depicting a Native American petroglyph. Throughout the piece there are endless symbols of spiritualism as Native Americans were and remain very religious and appeased the spirits through animals, spirits, and symbols. There are many forms of circles in the work, which represent the sacred and divine, inclusively of the universe, with its never-ending existence and symbolizing heaven because of its perfect symmetry and unvarying balance. As a symbol for God, the circle suggests not only the perfection of God but an everlasting God. Thus, the piece does represent a "religious theme" and also the symbolic meanings throughout the petroglyph depict the journey through life. Perhaps we can extrapolate our own journey from it as well, as we are all connected through the ages.

I am comfortable with my decision to accept this meaningful gift knowing that some are not in agreement. I believe that what comes from the heart goes to the heart. Helen Symes certainly presented this piece of art from her heart to the heart of St. Francis. I am also comfortable knowing that I have taken the lead in accepting this gift on behalf of St. Francis and have accepted it with heartfelt gratitude.

I invite you in the coming months to take the time to visit the Parish Hall and personally view this gift of art from Helen Symes, and to take the time to read the artist's description of her work entitled "Light Shines." Then, take a few moments to let me know

if you feel this gift of love and gratitude from Helen Symes should remain on permanent display here on the St. Francis campus.

Wayne North, Senior Warden

Outreach Stars

Even Rudolph the Reindeer is confused about Christmas. But the Outreach Committee has Santa Elves who are planning on helping the Salvation Army with this year's collection. St. Francis has offered 50 gift cards for \$50 each for teen-age students.

There are two ways to help:

1. Stars with a student's name will be available from Elves Bea Dow and Nancy Symons. When the gift card is purchased (Visa, Walmart or Big 5 Sporting Goods recommended), send the gift card and star in an envelope mailed to the church office. The stars will be available beginning November 15 and due on December 2.

or you may

2. Mail a \$50 check (minimum) to the Parish Office (600 S. La Cañada Dr., Green Valley, AZ 85614) with XMAS STARS on the outside of the envelope and in the memo line of your check. The elves will shop for you.

All envelopes marked XMAS STARS on the envelope are due in the Parish Office by December 2.

If you have questions for the Elves, call Bea Dow (648-8158 - available at La Posada) or Nancy Symons (399-0937).

Make Music or Join the Army!

You can do both next month by volunteering to be a Bell Ringer for the Salvation Army this Holiday Season. You have the opportunity to be a "greeter" of sorts at any one of several retail establishments here in the Green Valley area. Most notably are the three Walgreens Drug Stores, The Safeway Super Market on Duval Mine Road, Walmart, and Fry's Food Store. All are high-volume stores and each site provides you with a chair, insulated and foot-supportive pad to stand on. All you need is a friendly voice, a warm smile, and a wish to meet friendly people.

Call the Salvation Army at 625-3888 and ask to speak with Yuni or Esther and either one will be happy to answer your questions and to get you "booked" for your two-hour tour at any of the above sites over each of the four weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and sometimes a weekend or two following Christmas.

I've been a "Bell Ringer" for nearly twenty years here in Green Valley and it's one of the "fun" things I get to look forward to doing during the Holidays. Try it and you'll love doing it!

Wayne North,
Senior Warden

Correction

In last month's Newsletter we mistakenly added Richard Sand's name into the 'Deaths' column of the Parish Statistics. This came as something of a surprise to Richard who is, we are happy to report, alive, well, and very much with us. Our sincere apologies.

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!

Altar Flowers

Would you like to have flowers on the altar on a certain Sunday? Flowers can be given in loving memory of someone or in thanksgiving for persons or for a special date and occasion in your life that you wish to celebrate. Say it with flowers! Call the Parish Office or Carol Berg (520-373-5770) with your request. Donations are \$35 for the flowers.



Parish Offices will be closed . . .
Thanksgiving Day Thursday, 26 November

Volunteers Needed

Craig Reid, leader of our Grounds Team, has identified two areas that could use some special care. Our Memorial Garden and Labyrinth are both in need of their own small teams of volunteers to sweep, trim and look after the areas. Craig will give complete instructions and the two teams can plan the work and schedules. They would coordinate within the team and set up their individual work schedules to keep these areas looking their best. Volunteers can work together or individually, as long as it is coordinated within the group.

If doing hands-on yard work is to your liking, please send your name and email address to Julie Reppenhagen (jrepp@snet.net). You will be contacted by Craig to start the ball in motion.

Prayer Chain

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

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.

Annual 'Welcome Back' party

Fall approaches and many of our parishioners are returning to Green Valley (AKA God's Country) for the Winter. We invite you to our outside Welcome Back party in the church parking lot on Friday, November 13, from 3 to 5:30 pm. We will be serving a roasted chicken dinner, soda and water. Face masks will be required and social distancing will be observed for this event. The cost is still only \$12 per person (for carry-out only) and reservations MUST be made in advance by calling Sandy Eckstein (cell phone 410-808-3881) to reserve a spot and to let her know the number in your party. (Or you may email her at seckste2@gmail.com) This event has been approved by our Vestry and we will be following health and safety guidelines from the Pima County Health Department. Maximum outside event attendance has been set at 50 persons.

Please help to support our Social Activities Team Ministry; we are trying to reach out to everyone during these unusual times.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Stanley Wagaman
- 2 Cindy Radford
- 4 Pat Richey
- 7 Lynann Taylor
- 10 April Cole
- 11 Jerry McAllister
- 12 Sophia Witte
- 13 Sue Girardeau
- 15 Jane Barkley
- 15 Martha Jones
- 16 Connie Wilt
- 19 Vaneta Foster
- 21 Joyce McQuiggin
- 21 Alan Swain
- 21 Roberta Tucker
- 21 Donna Wangard
- 22 Mary Beth Bates
- 22 Margaret Bowman
- 22 Trish Rodemeyer
- 22 William Ryan
- 23 Roger Williams
- 25 Ann Brodt
- 25 Nancy Ross
- 26 Marilyn Findley
- 27 Diane Holt
- 27 Stephen Schwarzmamm
- 27 Diane Ward
- 30 Kathy Medeiros

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Roger & Margaret Ward
- 6 Leon & Linda Lies
- 9 Stephen & Diane Schwarzmamm
- 12 Ann Brodt & George Burrige
- 14 Sherri Cadeaux & Joe Grabiell
- 19 Barry & Donna Sheridan
- 21 Robert & Pat Ashley
- 25 Susanne Reed & Victor Stevens-Rosenberg
- 30 John & Martha Smith

My Ghost Story (Part Deux)

Readers of my Ghost Story article last month (both of them) were interested in knowing more about what young organ students think about their instrument (and its

repertoire) and about the fact that churches are where organs are for the most part to be found. (At least that's what they said.)

The organ fascinates for a number of reasons. You can produce lots of interesting sounds on it (some of which are not, I would argue, actually very musical) and it is capable of a tremendously wide dynamic range, all the way from whisper to thunder. It's also a complicated instrument to play and, oddly, that is also part of what fascinates.

What fascinated me when I was just a kid—and before any serious attempt to learn to play the organ—was its ability to sustain pitches, i.e. you could hold down a key and the pitch associated with it would continue to sound until you released the key. Very simple. The piano can't do that. Sorry Sharlyn.

Insofar as repertoire is concerned, no matter what anyone thinks of the music of, say, Widor (including his *Toccata*) there's always Bach. See, J.S. Bach is without doubt (WARNING: fasten seat belts all Mozart and Beethoven lovers) *the greatest composer of all time*. Period. And some of his greatest stuff was written for the instrument he loved best, the organ.

That doesn't mean there's not other great music too (some of it by Mozart and Beethoven—I actually prefer Haydn to Mozart and Brahms to Beethoven, but that's just moi) but Bach gets as close to perfection as it's possible for a human being to get. And whenever I hear that aesthetic judgements are nothing more than opinion—that they are all subjective, in other words—I think of Bach.

(I listened recently to a performance by the NETHERLANDS BACH SOCIETY of JSB's cantata *Lobe*

den Herren [Praise to the Lord, the Almighty]. You can find it on YouTube. It was hard to believe I was listening to something written nearly 300 years ago. It grabs hold of you and won't let go. Give it a try.)

So organists have Bach. And Bach's organ music is part of what's fascinating about the organ. Some of the most brilliant orchestrators the musical world has known—from Respighi to Elgar—have worked over some of Bach's organ music; but it ain't the same. Even when played on an inferior instrument—or on instruments that are essentially non-musical, like synthesizers—Bach's organ music survives. It even survives bad performances, and there are plenty of those to go around.

Enter, the Church. If you want to learn to play the organ, you have got to go to church. There are organs in concert halls too, but they're not usually available to students.

I'm not sure just how the organ found its way into the church. Perhaps because it's the one instrument that could fill a large space with sound, and fill it with only one person doing the playing. Maybe it was discovered early-on that organs did the best job accompanying singing, especially large numbers of people singing their heads off, thanks to the instrument's ability to sustain pitches.

Although I can't pinpoint the conjoining of organs and churches, I do know the two go together. Think again of Bach, a man very much of the church. He wrote *Soli Deo Gloria* at the end of many of his greatest works, even those not intended for the church. *To God Alone the Glory*. Indeed.

Gerald

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

Susan Meislahn

James Edward Richey

Edna Manahan

Meeting Rooms are Open for Church 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 Beth-el Klein via St. Francis' phone number 520-625-1370 to schedule the date, time and room for your meeting. Beth-el 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.

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.

Do we have...

your @e-mail.address?

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 Beth-el 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 Beth-el 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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