



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. 9

November 2021

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

Words From Warren . . .

Dear Friends,

*Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.*

*God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.*

Henry Alford, 1844

A few days ago I saw part of an old LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE episode. The father, Charles Ingalls, was looking forward to a successful wheat crop, but the night before the harvest a terrible hail storm devastated the farm fields around Walnut Grove. Winter was coming and there would be no money for food and necessities.

The story reminded me that no matter how technologically advanced we are in agriculture, we are still dependent on good weather conditions. Climate change and a pandemic affected economy remind us that we are more dependent on our environment and other countries than we want to believe. Our dependence on God for good harvests and health is the same today as in the time of Charles Ingalls.

In a few weeks we will celebrate Thanksgiving. This year we can gather with friends and family more safely than last year, something we can be truly grateful for! Thanksgiving will be a time to enjoy and celebrate, but I hope it will be much more.

My hope is that people will take time to reflect on the struggles of the last twenty months and remember those whose lives continue to be affected by the pandemic. Many have suffered and continue to suffer. People are out of work. Many grieve the loss of loved ones and friends.

We live in a time we think is so advanced. Many say we don't need God, but a hailstorm can devastate and a virus can still kill. There are people who are hungry and many lack the basic necessities. We still need God, and God needs us to make a difference in other people's lives.

As you gather for Thanksgiving, offer prayers of gratitude to God for what you have: Food, a place to live, health, friends and family. Also remember those who are not as fortunate and share from your blessings. Donate to the foodbanks and support local agencies and shelters. Take time to pray for others in need, and don't forget to reach out to those who are still isolated during this time of pandemic.

We have much to be thankful for this year as we come through the pandemic, but prayer is still needed. The pandemic isn't over yet.

May God bless you and your family during this season of Thanksgiving.

Blessings,
Fr. Warren

Words from Fr. Nelson ...

DRY TURKEY

As the holidays approach, an awareness or curiosity grows within me each year. While many of us might have the blessing of being able to gather near with loved ones, there are still many who will not be able to spend the holidays with those who might be close to their heart but far from their hands. This is due to a variety of reasons ranging from ongoing pandemic restrictions, distance, economic restraints, and more but the thing they all have in common is the simple fact that the ability to not be together can leave a distinct impression of sadness, loneliness, and beyond.

Growing up, my mother worked two full-time jobs to be able to provide for my brother and myself. She would often be up before he and I would wake and I would only have the lingering smell of her hairspray in the bathroom when I would rise. This would leave me to take care of myself and my brother on many days, but especially on holidays. Of course there were times when this was hard on us but I can't imagine the weight this put on her as a single mother.

I know that I had to grow up sooner than many of my friends because of this as I was taking care of my brother when I was as young as 7 years old. Despite all of this, my mom still provided, I became a "parent" as a child, and my brother was difficult, as many younger brothers can often be.

One Thanksgiving, my mother had purchased all of the necessary things for our meal but had to work from about 4 AM to 7 PM that day. I assured her that I would take care of all the cooking despite being just 12 years old and she had no option but to oblige so she went off to work.

My brother and I had a tradition we had developed where we would watch the Thanksgiving Day parade and that's when we would start preparing all of the meal items for dinner. Mom would normally prep the turkey but the rest of the sides were our responsibility. And so we began to work hard on our mashed potatoes, mac and cheese (we grew up in Southern Virginia), greens, stuffing, and sweet potato pie.

At some point throughout all of this we had taken the turkey out so that we could finish the rest of the side items but then noticed we had forgotten to put the turkey back in as mom called a few hours before her arrival. Naturally, my brother Chris and I panicked so we shoved the turkey back in and set it at a higher setting than we should have.

Right as my mother came home we decorated our table, set out all of the side items, and then my mom pulled out

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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

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Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

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Sandy Eckstein, Janie Hessong, Glenn Matto,

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Organist

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Sophia Witte

Handbell Ensemble Director

Deana Bond

Lead Sexton

Clarke Green

Sexton

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Green Valley,
is to live as Christ's heart and hands
in the world.*

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the turkey. A hush seemed to settle in the kitchen for a while but she eventually emerged with parts of the turkey on a tray. After everything was laid out, she prepped our plates and then we said a prayer.

Upon first bite of the sides, my family knew that we did as good of a job as we normally did despite being a poor, lower income family who cooked mostly from boxed meals. However, it was the initial nibble of the turkey that will always stay with me to this day.

You see, the turkey was super dry. Almost like jerky. There wasn't enough gravy in the world that could salvage this dry turkey, and yet my mom ate it proudly and without verbal complaints. My brother and I tried to consume as much as we could but we ended up just eating lots of mac and cheese and sparing the turkey.

A few years later, once I had improved my culinary skills, I brought the story up to my mother and she laughed and laughed and laughed. I asked her, "mom, why didn't you say anything or keep eating the clearly bad turkey?"

She responded, "Anak (my child), because you and your brother lovingly made the meal and despite the dry turkey, we still had food and each other."

So, while the holiday season approaches in a way that might still be different or not the perfect way we would imagine, I think it's important to remember that while the turkey might be dry—we will be fed and we will have each other. And I think God delights in that for all of us.

Nelson+

How do we welcome the stranger

It's been some time since we had normal worship with front door entry, coffee hour in the Parish Hall, and faces not covered by masks. But we have had a good start at being able to spend time with each other, and we're approaching the time of year when

more new faces are paying us a visit. So I wanted to gently remind you of how important it is for all of us to keep an eye out for that new face among us, and make every effort to extend our warmest welcome. Most of us have visited a church and no one took notice of us, and we know how that feels, especially when we profess to be a community of Christ's love. So I want you to dust the cobwebs off our warm hospitality and do even better than we have in the past. Unfortunately, at this point, visitors are not identified by their red ribbon as in

the past, but just look for new faces, and if they turn out to be old parishioners, you will have enriched your circle of fellow worshippers. New parishioner's will have a colored sticker on their name tags (placed there with their permission), so seek them out at Coffee Hour and become acquainted. So if you see folks that look alone with no one to talk to, make it your outreach to reach out. *Gary LaBarre*

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 always welcome. Get in touch with the Choirmaster at gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org.

Important Changes for Sunday Worship

The access to COVID 19 boosters is adding an extra layer of safety allowing us to relax some of the protocols during Sunday worship.

Beginning Sunday, November 7,

- all pews will be open for seating,
- the main (East) door into the Narthex will be open to welcome worshippers,
- worshippers wishing to receive Communion will be invited to receive the elements at one of two standing Communion stations at the front of the church,
- Communion wafers will no longer be in plastic baggies, and
- Communion wine will be available by intinction only for those wishing to receive wine.

To avoid crowding the aisle during the distribution of Communion, only one row at a time will move forward; masks will still be required in large groups such as worship services for the time being.

These changes are a step forward to the full removal of COVID 19 protocols. However, we will continue to keep an eye on COVID variants and are prepared to bring back restrictions if the need arises in order to protect those who have underlying health conditions.

Outreach Christmas Stars



Santa's elves—Bea Dow and Nancy Symons—are busy helping the Salvation Army with their Christmas Collection. St. Francis has offered gift cards for \$50 each for teenagers. Just select a name on a star (stars will be available in the Courtyard after Sunday services).

There are two ways to help:

1.) A gift card can be purchased (Walmart or Big 5 Sporting Goods are recommended.) 2.) A \$50 check to St. Francis with *Xmas Stars* on the memo line. Stars and gift card or check may be returned after Sunday service, to the Parish Office (Monday through Thursday 9 AM until NOON) or mailed to St. Francis, 600 S. La Cañada Drive, 85614.

Questions for elves: Bea Dow – 520-648-8158 (Available at La Posada) or Nancy Symons - 520-399-0937.

Prayer Quilts

Prayer Quilts are made by the Daughters of the King as part of their prayer mission. They are stored in the Vulliamy Room closet with donated fabric and batting. We also have loving members of the congregation who like to quilt and share their talents, hearts and hands for us to give to those in need of prayer. If you would like to request a prayer quilt for someone you know who could use prayers for any reason, or you would like to make a quilt, add strings or attach a label, just ask any Daughter for information or contact Sharon Thornby at 520-399-9042. Thank you and God Bless. *Sharon*

Cruzando Fronteras Needs

Cruzando needs chap stick, small jars of Vicks, and white socks for children and adults. Look for the collection spot in the Parish Hall.

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of two Telecare volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact Deacon Becky at 480-204-0022 or via email at 1beckyw@cox.net.

Prayer Chain

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

Senior Warden's Thoughts

October was a very busy month for our Parish. Fr. Warren was installed by our Bishop Jennifer Reddall on October 9, followed by a lovely evening reception in our Courtyard, thanks to Sandy and Mark Eckstein and the Social Activities committee. It was a memorable evening.

Our Annual Diocesan Convention was held on October 9 via Zoom for the business portion, and live on October 14 and 15 on YouTube. Our Delegates attended both days remotely. Presiding Bishop Michael was the speaker at the October 14 and 15 sessions. Deacon Becky was a server for Communion at the Eucharist on Saturday.

The Stewardship Committee has completed and mailed out the packet for the 2022 Pledges. Please prayerfully consider your support for the coming year. Your gifts enable St. Francis to be his "Heart and Hands in the community." (You can even submit your pledge online.) Instructions are in the packet. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mary Beth Bates or Treasurer Erik Ringkjøb.

We are finding ourselves in great need for additional Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes and Readers. Please consider offering your time and talents to assist with our worship services. Training will be provided. Contact the Parish Office to volunteer.

Welcome to all our newest attendees and to our returning Winter Residents. We look forward to seeing you as our activities increase as Winter approaches. Please stay safe until we meet again.

Jullie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Notes

When acorns fall from the Arizona live oak trees in our Courtyard, fall must be here! Mornings and days are cooler now, too. Deana has decorated the Parish Hall support pole and the window ledges with orange, yellow, and red artificial leaves to get us all in the fall mood—of, course, she did this on her own time as a gift to St. Francis. Thank you, Deana, Lead Sexton.

And, are you looking forward to Thanksgiving Day? It is a special time to reach out to others to share appreciation and gratitude and to make sure everyone has a place at someone's Thanksgiving table. This table could be in the Parish Hall at St. Francis in the Valley where Sandy and Mark Eckstein are leading a group of volunteer parishioners in the preparation of a no-cost dinner for us and our community. Please make a reservation if you wish

to have the meal. More volunteers are needed to make this a fabulous event. Happy Thanksgiving!

Let's go on to buildings and grounds and many completed and ongoing projects, small and large. Large first, then small.

Large-Ongoing

1. The insurance adjuster will meet with us to determine whether the Church policy will cover the upcoming tile roofing expenses.

2. Final efforts to further seal the flat roof over the office and Parish Hall complex to prevent further leaks is almost completed.

3. The grounds and its special places are being well kept. Some fall pruning and removal of dying or dead foliage is in progress. Thank you, Craig Reid, Arliene Stremming, Joyce and Vince Remillard, Reg Kahrmanis, Chris Arundell, Gary La Barre, and Mitch Ghoca. Ann Tenpenney will soon rejoin our volunteers after a summer of travel!

Smaller—Events or Ongoing

1. Thank you, Fred Keller, for your donation of a printer to the Church. It will be part of the electronic setup for the Library and Resource Center. The Center is getting a new look and some tender loving care by Joyce Davison and the new Library and Resource Center Ministry. This is exciting!

2. An assortment of pillows is now available in the front Chapel chairs as well as on the benches in the back of the Church proper. The pillows are available for anyone needing lumbar or other support. Thank you, Father Nelson for alerting us to this need.

3. The installing carpet company has recently re-glued some loose parts of the transition trim between the carpeting and the luxury vinyl plank in the Parish Hall.

4. The activation panel of the automatic door at the south entrance into the Chapel is repaired. An easier and safer entrance for you to enter the Church is again functional.

5. Parishioners using wheelchairs sometimes need better ramps/thresholds to more easily enter the Church proper and other spaces. Entering the south door by the Chapel and the main, front doors may be easier for entry into the Church. Notify a greeter or usher to assist you as needed.

6. To enhance the lighting for Father Warren's installation and reception and the Courtyard in general, Clarke Green, Sexton, installed decorative lights. Thank you, Clarke! And, they did add a nice touch to attendees enjoying champagne and a nice

meal on October 9 at the reception!

7. Recently, in an effort to maintain safety around our campus, Deana, Lead Sexton, has painted some step surfaces red to alert us when a step is a bit higher than we might expect. She has also added new non-skid tape to ramps and steps. Thank you!

8. We are waiting for the entrance sign into the Parish Hall which more clearly will identify the preferred door in and out of the Parish Hall.

9. If you would like to assist with the upkeep of the Grounds, seek more information by contacting Craig Reid, careid01@hotmail.com or text 520-288-9393, or Kristi Menix, Junior Warden, kmenix18@gmail.com or 406-600-9344. Thank you for your interest.

In gratitude for your support and blessings to all,
Kristi Menix, Junior Warden kmenix18@gmail.com

Home Communion

St. Francis is again offering home communion to parishioners unable to attend church services. If you would like a Lay Eucharistic Volunteer to bring you the Sacrament, please contact Deacon Becky (480-204-0022) or via email (1beckyw@cox.net).

Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotional booklets for November and December (2021) and January (2022) are available in the Parish Office during the week, and on Sunday mornings you can find them in the Parish Hall as well as the Office.

Looking for a good book to read?

How about *THE GOOD BOOK: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart* by Peter J. Gomes. This work opens up and explores our holy scriptures in a way that is accessible for those who want to know more about the Bible and more about what the Bible can say to us today. Though published 25 years ago, it is remarkably relevant in today's world—just as the Bible has been relevant in every age and remains so in our post-modern world. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (of *FINDING YOUR ROOTS* fame) praised *THE GOOD BOOK* as "A riveting tour of this holy book with the guide both witty and wise." You can check out *The Good Book* at the Library Cart on Sunday during Coffee Hour after church.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Radford, Cindy
4 Richey, Pat
7 Taylor, Lynann
10 Cole, April
11 McAllister, Jerry
12 Harby, Matthew
12 Witte, Sophia
13 Girardeau, Sue
15 Barkley, Jane
15 Jones, Martha
16 Wilt, Connie
21 Swain, Alan
21 Tucker, Roberta
21 Wangard, Donna
22 Bates, Mary Beth
22 Bowman, Margaret
22 Rodemeyer, Trish
22 Ryan, Bill
23 Davidson, Frank
23 Williams, Roger
24 Leibovitch, Fr. Warren
25 Brodt, Ann
25 Ross, Nancy
26 Findley, Marilyn
27 Holt, Diane
27 Schwarzmann, Stephen
27 Ward, Diane
30 Medeiros, Kathy

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1 Roger & Margaret Ward
6 Leon & Linda Lies
9 Stephen & Diane
Schwarzmann,
12 Ann Brodt & George Burridge
14 Sherri Cadeaux & Joe Grabiell
19 Barry & Donna Sheridan
24 Daniel & Phyllis Messier
25 Susanne Reed & Victor
Stevens-Rosenberg
30 John & Martha Smith

The Annual Covenant Fund Christmas Card Party

The 25th annual Christmas Card Party will be celebrated in the St. Francis Parish Hall on Saturday, December 4, at 2 PM, and *you are invited*. We will require an RSVP as we are limited to no more than 100 guests. Call the Parish Office (520-625-1370) to reserve your place. Enjoy a lovely meal catered by Santa Cruz Caterers, and Christmas music by Harpist, Christine Vivona.

The Covenant Fund was established in 1993 by Dorothy Baldwin to provide temporary financial aid for needy St. Francis Parishioners. The fund is administered by the Rector.

Here's how it works: Instead of sending cards to all your friends at St. Francis, just buy ONE card and put the money you save on cards and postage in the envelope and bring it along to the party. Your card will be placed on the tree in the Parish Hall where all will be able to enjoy it and the money you have saved will be donated to the St. Francis Covenant Fund.

Handbells Anyone?

St. Francis Handbell Ensemble rehearsals have begun and we invite you to participate. If you are interested just text Sophia Witte at 520-509-5037 or email her at smw_witte@yahoo.com.

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



PARISH MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Monday, 1 November
Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 2 November
Men's Group, 9 AM, PH
Stephen Ministry, 12 PM, VR

Wednesday, 3 November
Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
The Episcopal Way, 10 AM, PH

Thursday, 4 November
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Monday, 8 November
Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 9 November
Gardner Memorial, 11 AM
Vestry, 4 PM, CfR

Wednesday, 10 November
Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR
The Episcopal Way, 10 AM, PH

Thursday, 11 November
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Monday, 15 November
Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 16 November
Men's Group, 9 AM, PH

Wednesday, 17 November
Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
The Episcopal Way, 10 AM, PH

Thursday, 18 November
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Monday, 22 November
Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Wednesday, 24 November
Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
The Episcopal Way, 10 AM, PH

Thursday, 25 November
Thanksgiving Dinner, 1 PM, PH

Monday, 29 November
Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

CALENDAR LEGEND
PH - Parish Hall
VR - Vulliamy Room
CfR - Conference Room

2021 Parish Statistics

Transfers In

Rena Robbins
Laura Thomas
Joyce Davison

Deaths

Max Mayes
Nancy Gardner
Kathy Helgeson
Vern Hughes
Janet Corton
Patrick Ongley
Virginia Golden
Ed Wanek
Virginia Biondi
Helen Symes
Marjorie Gardner
Christine Conley

Security Alert

Securing our buildings and spaces is everyone's responsibility. If you are the last person out, or are locking a door behind you, please check to see if that door is pulled tightly closed or is locked as intended. Thank you!

Arizona Episcopalian Magazine

The AZ Episcopalian magazine is now available online. The current issue has a variety of articles showcasing all the great things going on around the Diocese. If you would rather receive it by mail—or to sign up to receive it online—contact Deborah (Finance Officer) through the Parish Office (520-625-1370 or deborah@stfrancisgvaz.org) to sign up. It's FREE!

Video Reflections

Fr. Warren provides short weekly Psalm video reflections. They are updated Thursdays on Facebook and YouTube. Past videos back to March 2020 are also available

Clergy

Discretionary Funds

Donations to Clergy Discretionary Funds are always needed and always welcome; these funds make it possible for 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 even 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.

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.

Recycle

We are able to recycle used ink jet cartridges at \$2 each, realizing over \$600 a year toward office supplies. Recycle boxes are located in the Parish Office and just inside the southwest door of the Parish Hall.

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
600 South La Cañada Drive
Green Valley AZ 85614

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Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist

11 AM in the Chapel

and

Thanksgiving Dinner

1 PM in the Parish Hall

(reservations required for dinner;

call 520-635-1370 or

stop in at the

Parish Office to sign up)