



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. 8

October 2021

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

Words From Warren . . .

Dear Friends,

It is time to celebrate—October 9th is my Installation and Celebration of New Ministry service! It is a sign we are coming out of the pandemic. I hope you will be able to come and celebrate with me on October 9th. If you can't come in person, the service will be live streamed on Facebook and later on YouTube.

I could never have guessed that when I accepted the call to come to St. Francis in September 2019 that bureaucracy would have created a longer wait to come to Arizona and that the wait would be complicated by a once-in-a-century pandemic. But here we are! October 9th I will be officially installed and welcomed as the new Rector to build upon the foundation of past Rectors as we move toward a new and exciting future.

Over the past year we have gotten to know each other. Initially the pandemic limited visits and meetings, but since the beginning of the new year with the loosening of many restrictions, I have enjoyed visiting many of you in your homes.

You are all such a blessing to me and I give thanks to God for bringing me to Arizona and St. Francis. I also give thanks to God that my wife Annette has finally been able to join me here after a nearly nine-month separation. We both look forward to getting to know more of you.

THE FALL:

October means the beginning of the return of many of our seasonal residents and parishioners. I look forward to a gradual increase in attendance at worship over the next few months, as well as (hopefully) adding more social activities and teaching opportunities through courses and studies.

The first fall course will be an enquirer/refresher course called "Rooted in Love: The Episcopal Way." The course runs October 27 to December 1st. Please see the promotion in this newsletter.

October will also see the restart of Wednesday morning Eucharists. These services will be held at 9 AM in the Chapel beginning October 6.

Office: The Reception office which has been closed since March 2020 will reopen in October. The hours will be Monday through Thursday 9 AM to NOON. If you are interested in volunteering, please email me (frwarren@stfrancisgvaz.org).

Please note that I am in the office most Tuesday and Thursday mornings if you would like to meet with me. Please call the office or send me an email and I'd be happy to set up a time to meet.

Saturday Service: Keep an ear out for information about a trial Saturday afternoon contemporary Eucharist. It has been my plan to add a Saturday service, either 4 PM or 5 PM, followed by a light

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Words From Warren, continued
meal. More information to come in a few weeks.

The church still has a way to go till activities get back to a more normal pace. The pandemic is still with us and precautions still need to be taken. Some of our vaccinated parishioners have caught Covid. However, we are moving forward and there is light at the end of the tunnel!

I look forward to the church getting busy over the next few months as Thanksgiving and Christmas approach. If you have been away since the pandemic started, please take a moment to say hello to me and Annette.

Blessings to all,

Fr. Warren

Words from Fr. Nelson ...

HOLY CURIOSITY

August 15, 2020 was the day that I was ordained to the priesthood here at St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church. It was a day that was filled with anxiety around unknowns, joy with my family who were visiting, and an overall sense of Holy Curiosity. Interestingly enough, it has been that same 'Holy Curiosity' that has shaped much of my priestly ministry this past year and I think it is a healthy motivator at times when I'm not sure how else to move forward.

You see, this Holy Curiosity that I mention is present in many of my daily actions. It's present from the moment that I wake up until the moment that I toss and turn myself to sleep at night. I find it perking up whenever I enter into conversations with folks here at the church, when I am praying about a personal consideration or the things you all lift up to us, and I find it even in the stillness of the day.

What I call Holy Curiosity might be what you all consider "unknowns" or "unexpected changes" or even anxiety. I've decided to call these things Holy Curiosity because it is in this reframing that has allowed me to enter a deeper conversation with God about what is happening in my life and in the universe unfolding before me. I find that in allowing myself to consider these things as curiosities instead of immediate impending signs of doom, it has allowed me to grow deeper into my understanding of myself and of God.

For example, as all of this talk of Delta surging has come up in conversation, it can be easy to be overwhelmed and to get overcome with a sense of dread and disempowerment. However, what I have found helpful is trying to consider what this means for myself and my immediate circle.

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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

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

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Bobbi Tucker, Clerk

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Lead Sexton

Clarke Green

Sexton

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Green Valley,
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in the world.*

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Perhaps this is an opportunity to reconnect with the ways I engage with others and is a reminder of how I am a caretaker not just for my immediate community but for even those I have a fleeting encounter with. The people at grocery stores and in elevators matter just as much to God as the people I call my inner circle and Beloved. For me, this surge is a reminder that caring for others is not always convenient and takes energy.

A lot has changed this past year and I am sure we have a long road ahead of us. However, if we all continue to keep a healthy sense of 'Holy Curiosity' and a loving heart for those in our community we will know for certain that the love of God is alive and well at St. Francis!

Nelson+

Annual Blessing of Animals

'All things bright and beautiful' says the hymn, and what could be brighter or more beautiful than our beloved pets? Our Patron, Francis of Assisi, is always associated with a love of 'all creatures great and small' and it is in his name that we offer our Annual Blessing of Animals, this year on October 2 at 3 PM. Bring your furry friends and join your fellow animal-loving parishioners for this always fun event.

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.

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@stfranciscgvaz.org.

Boutique Now Open

St. Francis Boutique is now open Sundays following the 9 o'clock service. Come see our beautiful, unique merchandise as you get ready for fall, Halloween and Thanksgiving celebrations! When you buy in the Boutique, you are helping support one of St. Francis outreach ministries because all profits go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. *Jylene Wright*

Rooted in Love: The Episcopal Way

You are invited to join us here at St. Francis for a six-week course to explore how to grow your spirituality and faith!

Our classes will be taught by Episcopal clergy; however, all who are interested in learning about the Christian faith through an Episcopal lens are welcome to attend!

Please note you are welcome to attend all or just drop in to select classes as you are able.

REGISTER HERE: <https://forms.gle/a2f3nHFcG9k-gdnxj8>

*Under Covid protocol, masks are optional depending on your vaccination status.

Event Timing: Wednesdays, October 27 through December 1 at 10 AM.

Contact us at (520) 625-1370 or Email Fr. Nelson at nelson@stfranciscgvaz.org for more info.

New Website Feature

A new feature has been added to the St. Francis website. A "member only" page where information that is not meant for the public, but of interest to the members of St. Francis, will be posted. To begin with, the minutes of Vestry meetings can be found there.

This "Members Only" page is visible in the St. Francis webpage navigation menu under the "HOME" tab. Here is a link to the page: Members Only - ST. FRANCIS IN THE VALLEY (stfranciscgvaz.org). You will be asked for a password to enter the page. The password is "1370", the last 4 digits of the St. Francis phone number. It can also be accessed by the link <https://www.stfranciscgvaz.org/401/login.php?redirect=/members-only.html>.

The "Members Only" page is hidden from search engines so someone will not stumble onto it without first logging onto the St. Francis website.

Neal Hursh

Do we have...

your@e-mail.address?

Parish Offices will be closed...

Columbus Day

Monday, 11 October

A Testamomial

There aren't enough words to explain what St. Francis means to us. When we moved to Green Valley we knew no one. We arrived on a Wednesday and the following Sunday were in church for the first time where we were taken under Deacon Pat's wing. From then on we had the most amazing, caring, and loving family we could ask for. We used our time and talent volunteering for many of the church's needs including ushering, SAT, the Staff, ground maintenance, and acolyte. For five years we enjoyed all the love and fellowship and truly felt this was the best parish in the world.

Then our world seemed to cave in. Marsha became seriously ill and was hospitalized for three and a half months. During the first few days there was a possibility she would not survive. She was even given last rights. Father Dan put the word out and everyone started praying for her. The prayers continued as her condition would improve and then worsen again. But our family at St. Francis never stopped praying and offering support for Bud. When she finally was released from the hospital the support became even greater. For almost two months we were provided with daily meals and home eucharist and anything else we needed. On our first Sunday back to church it felt so good to be once again at the communion rail even though Marsha was in a wheelchair.

The love and support of the congregation of St. Francis in The Valley is truly what kept us going and still does to this day. I found the definition of stewardship in the dictionary: the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving. That definitely describes the people of St. Francis in The Valley of which we are proud to say we are members.

Bud & Marsha Tripp

Prayer Chain

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

How to Access Service Videos

Go to the Parish website (www.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!

Senior Warden's Thoughts

Welcome back to our Winter residents who are beginning to return to Green Valley. We are glad to have you back with us. And welcome, too, to all our wonderful new visitors to St. Francis. We look forward to getting to know you.

October has arrived with a very busy schedule. I hope everyone will support Fr. Warren's Installation Service on Saturday October 9. It will be live, (see reservations procedure) and on line. We are delighted that this important day has finally arrived.

The Annual Diocesan Convention will be online October 9 for the Business portion and live and on-line Friday and Saturday, October 22-23, for the program portion. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be the guest speaker.

Consider signing up for Good Deed (Mitzah) Day which will happen from St. Francis on Friday November 5. It's a time to provide a few hours of service to a service organization in our area. For more information or to sign up, go to GoodDeeds@GVC-Foundation.org.

Please consider serving as Coffee Hosts. There are lots of openings in October. Bring some friends and make it a fun morning. Contact Gail Haight gghaight758@aol.com.

Please stay safe and well as the busy Fall season begins.

Jullie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Notes

It has been a busy summer and September at St. Francis. Here's the scoop about what is going on with the buildings and grounds of St. Francis in no order of priority:

1. More people are choosing to sit in the Chapel for services. Chairs have been repositioned to face the main altar with an attempt to provide some distancing measures.

2. As with most of Green Valley, insects are invading our property. Thankfully, our pest control service has regularly sprayed inside and outside to bring morbidity to any insects that enter our spaces. We are making every effort to keep those swept up! It is a buggy time of year!

3. This brings us to the issue of keeping doors closed unless otherwise designated, like before and after services. We especially do not want to leave doors propped open. We now have marked the pre-

ferred door for entering and leaving the Parish Hall: now marked outside with an ENTRANCE sign. Let's make every effort to prevent insects and other critters from entering our spaces. Thank you!

4. The heavy monsoon rains also brought sustained winds that uncovered leaks in the flat roofs of our complex as well as the tiled roofs. The flat roof (still under warranty) is being repaired and areas around the mechanical units resealed as needed.

5. Amazingly, the tile roof of the Church proper is 50 years old (1972), and the Chapel tile roof is 30 years old (1990). The materials under the tiles (underlayment) are what need to be replaced before further water damage occurs in our spaces. We have hired a roofing company who will replace our tiled roofs right after Christmas. Unbroken tiles will be reused after the underlayments are replaced.

6. To prevent bats from entering the Church proper and leaving their droppings and to prevent rodents from entering any of our spaces including through some vents in our structures, Critter Control Company is systematically putting new screen over vents and is sealing the many, recently detected apertures in our structures to prevent further rat/rodent and bat infestation. We know the desert commonly supports rodents that reproduce rapidly. This same company has recently set rat bait boxes around our buildings and grounds to be cleaned up and reset monthly.

7. It was suspected that the office complex had a mold issue, but inspections determined only standing water in heating and cooling equipment. A local HVAC company will soon clean, sanitize, and deodorize those units, ducts, and vents.

8. Lighting has been changed to LED lighting over the altar area to improve the quality of live streaming.

9. Multiple plumbing issues have been addressed to include connecting the hot water heater to its gas line to ensure hot water in the sacristy and courtyard bathrooms.

10. Thank you, Bernie Ravenelle, for donating a new American flag and Episcopal Church flag to St. Francis. Both are 4 x 6 feet and are made of very durable materials. Your donations are appreciated!

11. Kudos to volunteer parishioners who, rain or shine (mostly shine!), have worked diligently and regularly on Church grounds to reduce weeds, clean up debris, water plant beds and courtyard oak trees, and maintain the labyrinth, Memorial Garden, and Clare's Garden! Thank you, all: Vince and Joyce Remillard, Arlene Stremming, Gary La Barre, Chris Arundell, Reg Kahrmanis, and Craig Reid.

Thank you for your support! Blessings to all.

Kristi Menix, Junior Warden

kmenix18@gmail.com

Kino Border Initiative

Your help is needed, and it's easy. KBI is currently preparing and serving meals for between 800 and 900 persons every day at their Comedor location. They are in need of plastic containers (clean, please, and complete with lids) for 'take-out' purposes since recipients are not served on site. Yogurt and cottage cheese containers—or any kind of durable takeout container—will do.

Bring your contributions to church on Sunday and place them in the marked boxes in the Parish Hall. (In the past, several generous members of St. Francis prepared, delivered, and helped serve a morning meal once a month at KBI, a ministry that has had to be suspended due to the Covid pandemic.) You can also make a monetary contribution: make your check payable to St. Francis with 'KBI' in the Memo line. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Welcome Clarke Green

Please welcome Clarke Green to the St. Francis staff! The Church hired Clarke Green to be its part-time sexton starting September 1. Clarke is not new to St. Francis. For a few years he has reliably been the person who came to assist as needed with various projects and to cover in the lead sexton's or other sextons' absences. Now, he has committed his time and expertise on a consistent basis to about 10 hours per week. He reports to the Lead Sexton, Deana Bond. They work together to make sure the buildings and grounds are secure, clean, and maintained. In Clarke's past life he was an accountant and teacher, and now is living actively in his retirement years. Welcome, Clarke!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 William Holt
- 5 Diane McAllister
- 6 Patricia Peissig
- 7 Ellen Sax
- 7 Country Wagaman
- 7 Ed Hook
- 9 Barbara La Barre
- 9 Charlotte Neyland
- 9 Joseph McCarthy
- 10 Nancy McGibbon
- 10 Marion Carlisle
- 11 Millie Roach
- 11 Judy Sackman
- 11 Jim Ratley
- 12 Sandy Barnard
- 13 Anita Jacobs
- 14 Stephen Secaur
- 14 Karlina Varley
- 14 Thomasina Reid
- 15 Daniel Messier
- 16 Phebe Anderson
- 17 Stan Ravine
- 17 Mitch Ghoca
- 19 Ken Warren
- 21 Larry Howell
- 22 Judy Bush
- 23 Ann Tenpenney
- 23 Sophie Luffman
- 24 Sandy Eckstein
- 26 Robert Long
- 27 Sue Moody
- 27 Becky Williamson
- 28 David Wright
- 28 Jim Barnes
- 29 Chris Arundell

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Kahrmanis, Reg & Tamara
- 2 Junggren, Fred & Pris
- 11 Green, Christopher & Kristin
- 16 Bates, Bob & Mary Beth
- 17 DallaMura, Bart & Janet
- 23 Bonser, Jerry & Theresa
- 24 DeMarco, Russ & Kim
- 28 Mullaly, Wally & Helen

New Mask Protocols

At their August meeting (10 August 2021) members of the St. Francis Vestry voted to require parishioners to once again wear masks during in-person Sunday worship services. This measure applies to all worshippers, including those vaccinated against Covid 19, and is intended to be a temporary measure. The Vestry considered carefully the urgent need to protect all worshippers—parishioners and visitors alike; recommendations from the Diocese and Bishop Reddall were also a major part of the decision. (For small groups meeting in St. Francis facilities masks will be optional.)

Coffee Hour

Sunday morning Coffee Hour will be held outdoors until further notice. Masks will not be required. Coffee Hour is always in need of volunteers; if you can lend a hand contact Gail Haight at ghaight758@aol.com—she will be glad to hear from you.

Forward Day by Day

FORWARD DAY BY DAY devotion-al booklets for August, September and October 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.

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



PARISH MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Saturday 2 October

Reppenhagen Memorial, 11 AM
Blessing of Animals, 3 PM

Monday, 4 October

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 5 October

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

Wednesday, 6 October

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 7 October

Stewardship, 10 AM, CfR
Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Saturday, 9 October

Fr. Warren's Installation, 5 PM

Monday, 11 October

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 12 October

Social Activities, 11 AM, CfR
Vestry, 2 PM, CfR

Wednesday, 13 October

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 14 October

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Monday, 18 October

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Tuesday, 19 October

Men's Group, 9 AM, PH

Wednesday, 20 October

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Thursday, 21 October

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

Monday, 25 October

Morning Prayer, 9 AM, Chapel

Wednesday, 27 October

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
The Episcopal Way, 10 AM, PH

Thursday, 28 October

Parish Choir, 2 PM, Loft

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

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

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.

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
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