



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. 7

September 2020

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

From our Interim Rector . . .

A BLESSING OF BISHOPS

On a chess board, bishops move obliquely. They're not as powerful as castles, or a queen; nevertheless, you have to respect their oblique authority. In the Episcopal Church, bishops wield ultimate authority. But as with most authority, when church leaders exercise their authority directly, they are likely to lose good will—and therefore lose influence. So, it's always best to relax episcopal authority in order to increase respect and influence. Seminary professors of my generation used to say, "A bishop can ordain anyone he (sic) wants as a deacon or priest. If he lays hands on a bedpost, you'd better call it 'Father'." But those days are gone. For a more profound rendition of an Episcopal bishop's power, enjoy watching the holiday classic *THE BISHOP'S WIFE*, with David Niven as the very oblique bishop.

Bishops have always maintained a rigorous schedule. Here in Arizona, the Right Reverend Jennifer Reddall, without an assisting bishop, must regularly visit 58 parishes and missions, plus other diocesan institutions. And then there are many other special requests for her appearance and participation. These demands take up a lot of weekends!

Bishop Reddall is in just her second year as Arizona's diocesan bishop. Already she is making her mark here with hard work and thoughtful decisions. Here are some that particularly touch us at St. Francis:

- Immediately and wholeheartedly, Bishop Reddall has continued the Arizona Diocese's history of support for a ministry of pastoral care to migrants at our southern border. Many of our members participate in this support: feeding, provisioning, teaching ESL.
- The bishop has provided clear, firm, consistent guidelines for our safe worship through this pandemic. These are the medical guidelines that come from the CDC, interpreted with the data of Arizona's COVID-19 case numbers. She keeps her mask on, and insists we keep ours on, to break the chain of infection.
- Also during this pandemic, she has joined the leaders of other Arizona denominations to call for a moratorium on evictions of renters who have been laid off. In fact, she wrote the letter sent on behalf of the coalition of denominational leaders who asked Governor Ducey to extend the moratorium on evictions. The Governor listened and complied. While the moratorium may be a hardship for landlords who live on rental income, it has helped keep families together, and solvent, through this universal pandemic.
- This past spring, Bishop Reddall wrote to St. Francis, gave the opportunity to engage a graduating seminarian who has especially attractive qualifications as a community organizer and ministry builder. We interviewed him, and we are finding Fr. Nelson to be all that the bishop presented him to be. Fr. Nelson is someone whom the bishop clearly values; we can take it as an expression of her esteem for St. Francis Parish that she encouraged us to welcome and nurture Fr. Nelson as he begins his very promising pastoral ministry.

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From Our Interim Rector, continued

• No sooner was the bishop consecrated than her son Nathan suffered a life-threatening brain seizure. She showed us her humanity, stepping back for a short time from being bishop to be Nathan's full-time mom. The diocesan staff filled in to keep the diocese operating, and we have hardly missed a beat. When Bishop Reddall came to ordain Fr. Nelson at St. Francis on August 15, she told us that her son Nathan's brain surgery this past April succeeded in removing the growth which caused his seizure. He now has every prospect for a normal life, with a normal life expectancy. Thanks be to God!

Being a bishop has always been a tough job. It takes physical stamina, and social sensitivity, humility, and an enormous capacity to be wise with people. I admire and appreciate bishops who do these things well, and I am grateful that good candidates continue to put themselves forward for election to this key leadership in our Church. We are fortunate to have Bishop Reddall serving us so faithfully in Arizona. She is a blessing to us!

In Christ's love,



Fr. Colville

*From Our Curate,
The Rev. Nelson Mendoza*

Beloveds of St. Francis,

I have officially been ordained a priest in God's Church for a week now and there are a lot of thoughts and emotions that I am still processing. As you all know, this was not the ordination that I expected and yet I still felt completely enveloped by all of your prayers and love throughout the blessed occasion. For those of you curious, there's quite a lot that goes into the ordination of a priest! In fact, I even said it felt like coordinating a wedding for one person during many of my moments of planning!

Fortunately for me, I simply had to worry about the liturgical aspects of the event because I had an outstanding group of volunteers that helped manage the after-ordination celebration! I hesitate to list them all now for fear of accidentally leaving someone off the list. I just hope that all of you who helped plan and execute the drive-through celebration know that it meant the world to me and my family who traveled from Virginia to join us.

Despite standing outside in the sweltering Arizona sun,
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Published monthly
except June & August by

Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church
600 South La Cañada Drive, Green Valley AZ 85614
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THE RT. REV. JENNIFER REDDALL,
Bishop

THE REV. CANON COLVILLE SMYTHE
Interim Rector

The Rev. Nelson Mendoza
Curate

The Rev. Becky Williamson
Deacon

THE VESTRY
Wayne North, Senior Warden;
Julie Reppenhagen, Junior Warden;
Mary Beth Bates, Bill Baucom, Sandy Eckstein,
Kristi Menix, Orji Isiogu, Sandy Russell,
Cheryl Tardy-Albin, Helen Mullaly, Jenica Hisko,
ex officio: Erik Ringkjob, Treasurer;
Bobbi Tucker, Clerk

CHURCH STAFF

Gerald Near
Parish Administrator

Deborah Harby
Financial Officer

Gerald Near
Director of Music

Beth-el Klein
Administrative Assistant

J. Michael Case
Organist

Sharlyn Matthews
Director Emeritus, Handbell Ensemble

Sophia Witte
Handbell Ensemble Director

John Colip
Head Sexton

**Susan Whitney,
Clyde Tardy**
Assistant Sextons

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

From Our Curate, continued

many of us from the St. Francis community safely gathered and celebrated together! I am especially thankful for those of you who came through the drive-thru and offered your well wishes and kind remarks. And, of course, my deepest of thanks to those of you who contributed to my vestments and discretionary fund. After finally getting a moment to settle down and open the gifts, cards, etc, I counted a total of well over \$1,500 that will go towards purchasing clerical and liturgical vestments, required items for priestly ministry, as well as my discretionary fund.

To say that I am overwhelmed by the love and support that St. Francis has shown these past few months would be an understatement. While we may not be able to gather as you all have been able to in the past, I have been witness to the strength of your love for one another and the community of Green Valley. I remain hopeful for the blessings that are yet to come and look forward to the day that I may be able to meet each of your face to face and not simply “mask to mask.”

Until then, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or comments you may have. You may write to me directly at nelson@stfrancisgvaz.org.

Please know that I am holding all of you in prayer and thanksgiving for all of your contributions to me, the St. Francis community, and the entirety of God's Creation.

In God's Peace,

Nelson+

Grief Support Group

Once again we will be offering a Grief Support Group at St. Francis for those who have lost a loved one. The group is open to the community, is non-denominational, no charge and is facilitated by Jeannie North, BSN, MC who has had over 30 years experience working with those in bereavement. The next session will begin on Monday, October 5 and run five consecutive Mondays from 1:30—3:30 PM. It will be held in the St. Francis room which can be sanitized and where we can maintain social distancing. Masks are required. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested in attending, call to register or to obtain additional information: Jeannie North at 715-205-1886.

Annual 'Welcome Back' party

Fall approaches and many of our parishioners are returning to Green Valley (AKA God's Country) for the Winter. Come to our outside WELCOME BACK party in our parking lot on Friday, November 13 from 3—5:30 PM for a roasted chicken dinner, soda and water. We will be requiring the use of face masks and social distancing will be observed; there will be a designated parking space for you and a table between cars (please bring your own chair) so you can comfortably and safely enjoy your dinner and seeing your church friends.

The cost will remain at \$12 per person and reservations **must** be made in advance by calling Sandy Eckstein at 410-808-3881 to reserve the number in your party, or you may email her (seckste2@gmail.com). These plans have been approved by our Vestry and we will be following guidelines from Pima County Health Department.

Please help to support our Social Activities Team Ministry as we try to reach out to everyone during these unusual times.

'Stewardship'

It's not a bad word at St. Francis. In fact, it's a very good word. St. Francis is blessed with a core of members mature in their faith—some of great means and many of modest means—who find satisfaction and joy in generously supporting the work of the Church.

The Stewardship Committee is looking for a few good members! If you are one of our core members—or would like to become one—the Vestry and I invite you to join the Stewardship Committee. The Committee's work is mostly seasonal: from now to Christmas. Its mission is to educate the parish in a variety of ways about the meaning and practice of responsible, effective stewardship. Your skills in speaking, writing, phoning and mailing are highly desired on the Committee. To express your interest in serving, or for further information, contact Fr. Colville (colville@stfrancisgvaz.org) or Wayne North (wknorth@gmail.com). *Fr. Colville*

Clergy Availability

Our St. Francis clergy are still available for pastoral care and calls. Contact Fr. Colville directly at colville@stfrancisgvaz.org or 626-824-0270.

Prayer Chain

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

Senior Warden's Notes

Our author, Admiral James Stavridis, USN (Ret) opens this current chapter recalling the worst night he ever spent at sea as a ship's captain. It was the summer of 1993 and Stavridis was in his late thirties, and his ship, his very first command at sea, was the USS Barry, a brand-new Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer. Visibility was almost nonexistent in a fierce gale, and Portsmouth, England, their destination, was the first overseas port call for the Barry and her crew.

Our young captain would soon be playing out his dream of touring HMS Victory, the flagship of his hero and idol, Royal Navy Vice Admiral Lord Viscount Horatio Nelson. As the oldest commissioned warship in the British Navy, HMS Victory served as Nelson's flagship for his greatest wartime achievement at Trafalgar, and still later as his final place at rest after succumbing to numerous combat wounds.

He was idolized and admired for his leadership style, especially as it illustrated his compassion for his fellow officers and how he quickly matched his leadership training methods with the promising career patterns he witnessed in his subordinate sea captains. Much of this same philosophy for personnel development was exercised with his enlisted crews as well.

Was Nelson fully admired by all for his display of good judgement and fairness in his dealings with his peers and subordinates? Surely this could not be the same officer and gentleman, who openly showed a love for publicity when he exercised an adulterous affair with one Lady Emma Hamilton. To fully understand the important questions relative to one's character, personality and leadership traits, whenever there is a coexisting factor of questionable judgment, it will certainly provide us with the lessons that can be useful in helping us to navigate our own voyage of character.

Let us take a few moments to discover what had propelled Lord Nelson to be one of history's most respected naval leaders.

Horatio Nelson was born in 1758, and throughout infancy was weak and sickly, and as he grew and matured, he never seemed to achieve a dynamic physical appearance comparable with many of his peers. He made up for this physical deficiency by challenging the current norms; by establishing himself bureaucratically ashore as well as achieving a reputation for unquestionable command authority at sea. An example was to show his superiors his ability to successfully achieve

a victory, while blatantly disobeying an order given by a senior command. He was forever recognized for his ability to manage the art of practicing insubordination repeatedly, and still show successive victories in his battles. While he favored such independence, his greatest enjoyment came from building teams. No British commander in history is more respected for pure leadership than Nelson.

Looking back on the lessons of leadership and the keystone position which character held in the leadership theme as adopted by Lord Nelson, he grew his basic philosophy for team building to include paying particular attention to morale, and the needs of his subordinates. His purpose was to instill in his subordinates the unswerving desire to serve king and country.

"Duty is the great business of a Sea Officer. All private considerations must give way to it, however Painful it is."...and..."Our country has the first demand of our services; and private convenience, or happiness, must ever give way to the Public Good." Admiral Stavridis reminds us that throughout his life and career, he never wavered from this belief as the centerpiece of his character.

We see a successful progression of achievements making Nelson history's most respected career naval officer when he is graded solely on pure leadership. At the same time, his failures were of a personal nature, and seemingly had little effect on his professional career.

"He personified the desire that many people of character have to be part of something larger than themselves, something into which they can fully invest themselves."

"Thinking about teamwork in the context of character is also important...this holds true with our peers and our subordinates." Where we fail is when we do not pay enough attention to our peers.

Two key words jump out at you when you read this particular chapter about Vice Admiral Lord Viscount Horatio Nelson...character and teamwork!

For our next edition of *The Franciscan Staff*, we will feature the life and times and lessons learned with Rear Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan, 1840-1914.

Wayne North, Senior Warden

Portions of my text contain material taken directly from Admiral James Stavridis' book titled *SAILING TRUE NORTH: TEN ADMIRALS AND THE VOYAGE OF CHARACTER*, Copyright © 2019 by James Stavridis, and reprinted with permission from the book's publishers, Penguin Random House LLC.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Geoffrey Hill
- 2 Janet Hill
- 3 Virginia Scott
- 4 Eva Jenkins
- 5 Donald Hart
- 5 Pat Kirk
- 6 Mark Day
- 7 Julie Breitenbucher
- 7 Joan Henrich
- 7 Gilda Nelson
- 8 Wally Mullaly
- 8 William Schnelle
- 9 Doug Brozovsky
- 9 Dana Micari
- 10 Pamela Barnes
- 10 Anne Gillespie
- 10 Michael Staples
- 11 Tom Neyland
- 11 Susan Tenney
- 11 Kristi Thompson
- 11 Kathryn Wanek
- 15 Robert Allen
- 15 Barbara Bundy
- 15 Nancy Gardner
- 15 Mista Wilt
- 18 Virginia Golden
- 19 Daniel Ryan
- 19 Sylvia Smythe
- 20 Patricia Ghoca
- 20 Gary La Barre
- 22 Judith Burgess
- 23 Kate Hutson
- 24 Eric Gough
- 24 Beulah Claudine Parks
- 25 Paula Altamirano
- 25 Barbara Glover
- 26 Mark Eckstein
- 26 Marilou Johnstone
- 26 Susanne Reed
- 26 Sue Richards
- 28 Nancy Milsovic

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Barnes, David & Katherine
- 1 Nelson, Norman & Gilda
- 6 Helgeson, Lanny & Kathryn
- 6 North, Stephen & Dorothy
- 8 Miller, Bill & Marie
- 11 Richards, Don & Sue

- 18 Jakubiak, Kenneth & Joan
- 19 Welch, Richard & Sandra
- 24 Schappach, George & Shirlee
- 26 Foerster, Jill & Lee
- 29 Hill, Geoffrey & Wendy

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
James Edward Richey

Programs this Fall?

The Clergy and Vestry are looking at fall program possibilities. Here are the ones they especially like. (These are all on-line and Zoom meetings.) What appeals to you?

_____ **AGAPE SUPPERS** You prep your own dinner at home, and open your own wine. On Zoom we share a short table liturgy to open, then enjoy godly conversation during the meal.

_____ **'HUMANS OF ST. FRANCIS'** Fr. Nelson is revising his on-line chat as a conversation for we of St. Francis to become better acquainted with him, and more widely and deeply acquainted with one another.

_____ **BIBLE CLASS ONLINE** could be The Gospel of Mark to get us ready for liturgical Year B. Or one of Paul's imprisonment epistles (Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians) Or...??

_____ **'THE WAY OF LOVE: PRACTICES FOR A JESUS-CENTERED LIFE'** Presiding Bishop Michael Curry hosts these conversations which invite us to deepen our humanity in sharing with one another.

_____ your idea for fall program

How to Access Service Videos

Go to the Parish website (www.stfrancisgvaaz.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!

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.

ST. FRANCIS-IN-THE-VALLEY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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