



# The Franciscan



February 2025

• **Diocesan Bishop** •  
*The Rt Rev John Taylor*

• **Our Vicar** •  
*The Rev. Sarah Kitch*  
[stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)

• **The Bishop's Committee** •

• *Bishop's Warden*  
*Amy Brown*

• *Junior Warden*  
*Dan McCarty*

• *Finance*  
*Sam Anusiem*

• *Clerk*  
*Cathy Grimes*

• *Communications*  
*Doug Onyon*

• *Pastoral Care*  
*Tracy Hurst*

• *Fellowship*  
*Kerri-Jo Hansen*

• *Service/Outreach*  
*Gerri Harrington*

• *Worship*  
*Chris McCarty*

## From Our Vicar...

I'm too old for New Year's resolutions and promises I didn't keep when the fireworks of the next year were lit up. But *tell me, what are you doing with your one wild and precious life?*

**Read More page 2**

For 110 years, Hillside has helped children, youth, and families heal through trauma-informed care, behavioral health treatment, and foster care and adoption services. Hillside also provides support to young adults with transitional housing, life skills training, and job training and placement.

The ECW is asking for unwrapped new toys of all types, suitable for ages 0-18. All toys collected go directly to Hillside and are used to provide gifts to the children and families of Hillside for special occasions and birthdays throughout the year.

The ECW is  
Collecting  
TOYS for  
Hillside.

Drive begins  
February 1st  
& ends  
March 31st.

### Hillside TOY Drive



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# From Our Vicar...

Who made the world?  
Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
Who made the grasshopper?  
This grasshopper, I mean--  
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down --  
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
With your one wild and precious life?

- Mary Oliver

We are past one month of a New Year and beginning the second month. *Tell me, what are you doing with your one wild and precious life?* I'm too old for New Year's resolutions and promises I didn't keep when the fireworks of the next year were lit up. But *tell me, what are you doing with your one wild and precious life?* Are there places in your heart that you have renewed with old friends, perhaps that you haven't kept in touch with? Have you given yourself that wonderful gift of today, that you choose what is life-giving and nourishing for you? When did you tell all the people that are important to you in your life that you love them? *Tell me, what are you doing with your one wild and precious life??* What do I want to do differently? Now is the time to put those things I've been putting off, to get done. I want to reach for some of the things I dream about and see them realized. What does that mean for you? Maybe today, is a beginning to putting into plan something you want to do with *your one wild and precious life*. *Will you tell me?*



## The Walk to Emmaus- *by Aurora Haydostian*

About a year ago, I was a “Pilgrim” in my first Walk to Emmaus. Some of you may have heard about this Spiritual Walk and are wondering just what it is all about. The Emmaus Community here in Ventura (CIE) is strong and growing. We seek to serve and learn more about what it truly means to be “walking with Jesus.” The retreat is over the course of 3 days (72 hrs.) and during that time it is our hope that each Pilgrim be touched and emboldened in ways to become closer to God. The walk takes place every 6 months for Men and Women separately. Married Couples are strongly encouraged to participate. The weekend is filled with learning, praying, singing, joy and much much more! If you are interested in learning more about the next upcoming Walk-please see myself or Stephen Bayles. We would be happy to speak to you and give you further details.

**Are you curious about the Walk to Emmaus? Would you like to deepen your relationship with Christ?**

If the answer is yes - Steve and Aurora would like to speak with you! Please prayerfully consider the following and reach out directly to them-after service.

**What is the Walk to Emmaus?**

This is a 72 hour Spiritual retreat that happens every 6 months. The next upcoming Emmaus Walk will be held in Ventura at the United Methodist Church.



### Men's Walk #68

**Thursday, Feb 20th 2025 - Sunday, Feb 23rd 2025**

### Women's Walk #68

**Thursday, Feb 27, 2025 - Sunday, March 2nd 2025**

## Stay Connected With Us!

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141
- Pastoral Care via email [stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)
- Keep up through the St. Francis Website <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
- Sunday Worship In-Person 10:15 AM & Live Streamed - links in the St. Francis Weekly
  - Stay connected through weekly services and activities made available

Please remember St. Francis with your donations and pledge.

*Secure online giving available through PayPal:*

<https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/donate>

### **ECW SOUP FUNDRAISER:**

Asking donation of \$10. All are welcome.  
Soup and Bread will be served during Sunday  
February 16<sup>th</sup> Coffee Hour.

### **SAVE THE DATE: Tue, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Mardi Gras Gumbo Cook-off**

Join us for a feast of fun and fellowship as we prepare  
for the Lenten Season. \$15 donation requested,  
Donations will go to the Music Fund.

## Ash Wednesday Services

Services will be Wednesday  
March 5th

**10:00 am**

**12:00 pm**

**and**

**6:00 pm**



# Doug's Corner

## Getting to know you . . . and each other Meet Kerri-Jo Hansen

Kerri-Jo Hansen has many passions in her life. In addition to her 23-year-old son Louis, she is devoted to elementary school teaching, child development, genealogy, the U.S. Air Force, hand embroidery and the Episcopalian faith.

Kerri-Jo describes herself as an “Air Force brat”. Her father retired from Castle Air Force Base in Atwater, Calif., when she was 16. As an “Air Force brat” she had lived in Okinawa, Japan; Weisbaden Air Base in what was then West Germany; and Osan Air Base in South Korea. She went with her Girl Scout Troop to see the Berlin Wall. Her family took a family trip through Europe in 1975 touring the Dachau Concentration Camp and the Canterbury Cathedral in England at a time when the cathedral was refurbishing its stained glass windows. Her cross has pieces of ancient glass from the stained windows. She also visited the DMZ in South Korea in 1994.



After receiving her bachelors of arts degree in child development, Kerri-Jo worked as a training and curriculum specialist and later as an assistant director at several Air Force Child Development Centers. She then turned to her dream job --- teaching --- and has been an elementary school teacher since 1996.

Volunteerism is very important to Kerri-Jo. She is a member of Sons of Norway and recently became vice president of her Norseman Lodge. And, for the past two years she has helped decorate floats for Pasadena’s famed Tournament of Roses Parade.

“Christianity seems to be in my DNA,” Kerri-Jo says. “I can trace ancestry baptisms in the Church of England as far back as the 1500s. My family has Quaker roots and we are direct descendants of Quaker minister John Edward Wilbur.” Kerri-Jo was raised as an Episcopalian, which has been a significant part of her family for five generations. Her commitment to the church is strong as she has served as an acolyte, a member of a choir and served on the vestry at churches in the U.S. and Germany. She serves as a St. Francis lector, a lay eucharist minister, and is the newest member of St. Francis’ Bishop’s Committee.

In addition to finding St. Francis “wonderfully spiritual” she says the people in St. Francis’ family are “friendly and I enjoy the conversations at coffee hour.”



# February 2025 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Feb 2	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23	
<b>Lector (O.T./Psalm)</b>	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
<b>Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)</b>	Reuben A.	Tracy H.	Kerri-Jo H.	Chrissy B.	
<b>LEM</b>	Tracy H.	Kerri-Jo H. Evie M.	Chrissy B.	Kerri-Jo H. Craig A.	
<b>Usher / Greeter</b>	Ted W.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	Rebecca S.	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Tracy H.	Cathy G.	Chrissy B. Kerri-Jo H.	Chris M.	
<b>Preaching</b>	David K	Rev Sarah	Rev Alene Campbell	Rev Sarah	

# March 2025 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
<b>Lector (O.T./Psalm)</b>	Gerri H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Peggy S.	Susan S.
<b>Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)</b>	Reuben A.	Chrissy B.	Madeline C	Kerri-Jo H.	Chrissy B.
<b>LEM</b>	Lisa N.	Kerri-Jo H.	Craig A.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H. Evie M.
<b>Usher / Greeter</b>	Ted W.	Reuben A.	Joe Z	Rebecca S.	Reuben A.
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Gerri H.	Kerri-Jo H.	Cathy G.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H
<b>Preaching</b>	David K	Rev Sarah	David K	Rev Sarah	David K

*Thank you for Serving!*

*Please note the above schedule is subject to change. Please let the Church Office know if you are unable to serve on the date(s) you've been scheduled.*

# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Private Event
<b>2</b> David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>3</b>  8 pm Men's AA	<b>4</b>  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm	<b>5</b> 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>6</b>  Baby Closet 10:30-11:30  7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	<b>7</b>  <b>ECW MEETING 5:30 PM</b>  8 pm AA PH	<b>8</b> Private Event
<b>9</b> Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>10</b>  8 pm Men's AA	<b>11</b>  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	<b>12</b> 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>13</b>  Baby Closet 10:30-11:30  7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	<b>14</b> <i>Valentine's Day</i>  8 pm AA PH	<b>15</b> Private Event
<b>16</b> Rev Alene Campbell Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music <b>ECW Soup Sunday \$10</b> 6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>17</b>  8 pm Men's AA	<b>18</b>  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	<b>19</b> 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>20</b>  Baby Closet 10:30-11:30  7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	<b>21</b>  8 pm AA PH	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  <b>BC Mtg</b> 6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>24</b>  8 pm Men's AA	<b>25</b>  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	<b>26</b> 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>27</b>  Baby Closet 10:30-11:30  7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	<b>28</b>  8 pm AA PH	

# The Franciscan

## Newsletter – February 2025

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church  
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065  
Phone 805.526.5141  
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**TO:**

The ECW is  
Collecting  
TOYS for  
Hillsides.

**Drive begins  
February 1st  
& ends  
March 31st.**



### Join Us:

- ◆ Sunday: 10:15 am Service
- ◆ Wednesdays:  
10 am Healing Service