



The Franciscan



August 2024

● **Diocesan Bishop** ●

The Rt Rev John Taylor

● **Our Vicar** ●

The Rev. Sarah Kitch
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
- *Service/Outreach*
Gerri Harrington
- *Worship*
Chris McCarty

From Our Vicar...

Take time to meditate with gratitude on a flower, appreciating all its qualities of beauty, how it simply is what it was created to be. Allow yourself to fill with joyful gratitude for the gifts of the earth. Open yourself to experience the fullness of this flower and all the ways God delights in the beauty of blossoms.

... Read Article on pg.2

Coming Soon:

As we head towards our patronal feast day-celebrated with the Annual St Francis' Blessing of the Animals, we enter into what's known as Creationtide, our focus here at St Francis will shift towards Creation Care and becoming mindful of how we as a community can minimize our footprint on this wonderful Earth we call home. Some ways we will do this will include: educating ourselves on, and adherence to the April 23, 2024 ban on polystyrene, aka Styrofoam; providing E-waste drop-off; and household battery recycling, to keep these items from entering our landfills. *Did you know? While over 5 billion pounds of it go to our landfills and waterways each year, Styrofoam can take up to 500 years to decompose in a landfill! As it breaks down, it releases toxic chemicals into the ground and water and, it releases methane gas. It can also break down into small particles that marine animals may mistake for food. Information from healthetheplanet.com*



...Stay Tuned for more during Creationtide



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From Our Vicar...

Jesus reminds us that the gate is indeed narrow, and the road is indeed hard, but he has given us friends and food and rest to encourage us, to feed us, and to renew us for the journey ahead. And that is what makes this journey of faith that we are on possible: friends, food and rest.

-Br. James Koester Society of Saint John the Evangelist

This notation caught my eye as I was thinking of the turning of the summer into the pace of returning to school, shifting projects, outdoor barbecues to indoor spaces and kitchen tables. As I read this I prayed for our community as we change a rhythm again in our lives. I was meditating on the stability the church offers as we come and receive bread and wine, share fellowship with one another, and connect with God's love over each of us. With such thoughts, I wanted to share a practical meditation to give us a moment's pause from the pace and remind us how deeply loved we are by God and all those around us. May we relish that love, and the blossoming into a new season as we journey ahead.

A Practical Meditation

Take time to meditate with gratitude on a flower, appreciating all its qualities of beauty, how it simply is what it was created to be. Allow yourself to fill with joyful gratitude for the gifts of the earth. Open yourself to experience the fullness of this flower and all the ways God delights in the beauty of blossoms.

Then shift your focus from the flower to yourself. Take this sense of wonder and awe at the beauty of the flower and imagine how God gazes with delight on the beauty of who you are. What aspects of your being can you imagine God relishing? What are the longings inside of you God is asking you to embrace?

Rest in this awareness of the joy and delight of God in your own beautiful blossoming for several minutes. Notice what new longings it stirs in you.



Doug's Corner



Tracy releasing monarch (above)

Meet Tracy Hurst

You don't often meet many people who raise monarch butterflies from eggs (indoors) to adult and then release them outdoors when they're ready. Tracy Hurst does exactly that. "All phases of their incredible transformation are glorious," she says. "I feel especially connected to monarchs." It's all part of Tracy's focus on Earth sciences and her commitment to learning about Earth's natural environments and physical processes, especially deserts and succulents. Tracy received her master's degree majoring in Earth sciences at CSUN and taught the subject to college students.

Tracy grew up in the San Fernando Valley and moved to Simi Valley in 2016, which she loves. She and her husband Ken have been married 17 years having met while serving

her internship at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. She has a daughter Cheyenne who is a therapist and runs emotional support groups. Her loving family, in addition to Ken and Cheyenne, includes her parents, step-parents, step-sons (one the father of two children), and pets: cats and her latest addition, two dogs.

Daughter Cheyenne and Tracy (below)





Tracy and husband, Ken with dogs (above)

It was her love of animals that brought her to St. Francis. “I was looking for a church in Simi Valley and I came across the ‘Blessing of the Animals’ service.” The first day that I attended church, Rev. Sarah welcomed me and spent time talking with me. I instantly felt the love and knew I was welcome, wanted and truly belonged here. St. Francis is all about love. Every Sunday, we are reminded that God is love and to have faith that He is always with us.”

Tracy puts her faith into action. She loves serving the Lord by being on St. Francis’ Bishop Committee for pastoral care, is a

LEM for Sunday services, is on the altar guild and is a reader. In her “spare time,” Tracy loves to cook, tending to her fairy garden and enjoying tea parties, all of which she likes to share with others.



Tracy has some words of advice for all of us. “I had colon cancer a few years ago, which put me through major surgery and a long recovery. Jesus held my hand through it all. I encourage others to stay on top of medical screening tests, as they can be lifesaving!” Tracy cares very much about her church family and regularly holds them in prayer.



Tracy's Table at the May Tea 2024 (above); Left to right top row: Jill R, Peggy S, Daniel, Rev. Sarah, Tracy; bottom row: Tracy's Mom – Ginger, Daughter Cheyenne, and Ana F.

Meet Our New Music Ministers/Directors

Stephen LeBlanc



Music has been the center of Stephen LeBlanc's life since he was 6 years old. That's when our new music director began studying piano with a private teacher. The child of musicians in his hometown of Memphis, Tenn., Stephen was destined to devote his life to music. He studied at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music in Nashville, Tenn., and also studied jazz piano at the New England Conservatory of Music later joining the L.A. Jazz Workshop Big Band earning a jazz keyboard performance certificate from the Dick Grove School of Music.

Stephen graduated with a Bachelor of Music from California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. Over the past 30 years, Stephen has worked as a professional touring and recording musician for successful artists including Jason Bonham, and A Fine Frenzy. He has recording credits on three major label albums, several television appearances, and has performed in 48 states. Stephen has also performed live, and on television, in England, Germany, France, Austria, Portugal and The Netherlands.

Raised a Catholic, Stephen was the organist and piano player at three masses a week as a teenager and has been playing music for Episcopalian and Lutheran services.

Michael J Mani



Joining us at St. Francis is music minister Michael J. Mani, a Grammy-winning composer and record producer. Classically trained as a pianist, Michael's career began in San Francisco working with multi-platinum music producers Walter Afanasief and Narada Michael Walden. He also excelled at song production and composition and was soon working with top artists including Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston.

Michael continued to climb the ladder of the Bay Area music scene and rose to the top of the commercial composition scoring market, working with top advertising agencies and video game developers such as Foote, Cone and Belding, Sega and EA Sports. In 2000 he collaborated with Santana and won a Grammy award for his work on the "Supernatural" album featuring Eric Clapton. Michael then discovered young singing sensation Tori Kelly and signed her to a record deal with Geffen Records. This led him to Los Angeles and a publishing deal with EMI Music. He quickly excelled as an in house writer/producer, which led to collaborations with other top artists including J-Lo, Kesha, Tech N9NE, Lady Gaga, and the Backstreet Boys.

He started The JAM Studios in North Hollywood. It was here he discovered and started developing Latin singing/rapping sensation Becky G. He was able to secure a record and production deal for her and with RCA Records and producer Dr. Luke.

Michael lives in Los Angeles and continues to be in high demand for his album production mastery, and expertise penning compositions and scores for TV and film.

Getting to know you . . . and each other

An Update from Paul Kellogg:



Pictured above: Bianca and Paul

“Things are going well for me thus far, and though it has been extremely hot I have adapted pretty well to the high temperatures! I managed to spend about 2 hours outside during the hottest day ever recorded here, reaching 120 degrees on the 7th.

Today I visited the Hoover Dam, and I hope to also visit Mt. Charleston before I begin work at Adams Elementary on the 31st. I do miss St. Francis dearly but I'm sure you'll be happy to hear that I am attending services at Christ Church Episcopal here in Las Vegas and Bianca and I have been doing a daily Bible study together. I hope all is well at St. Francis, ”

*Thank you,
Paul Kellogg*

Article submission by Joyce Stephenson:

St. Francis Book Club

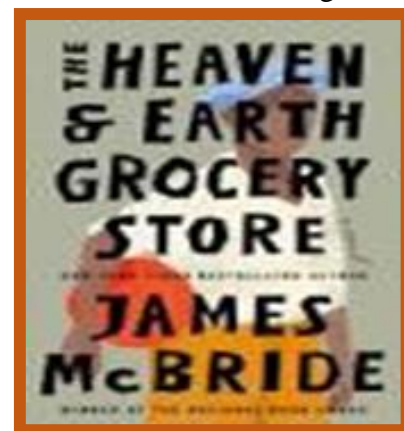
St. Francis' book club found a lot to discuss about July's featured book: “Small Acts of Courage: A Legacy of Endurance and the Fight for Democracy” by Ali Velshi.

Velshi explores the challenges his family faced as migrants -- from India to South Africa, and then to Kenya, Canada and finally to the United States. Over the years, they had to start life all over again through droughts, famine, and apartheid. Being Muslims, they also faced extreme forms of discrimination. Early in their stay in South Africa, members of their family were friends of Mahatma Gandhi who among many other accomplishments started the Tolstoy Farm School, which one of the young boys attended. The values taught there of community good and passive resistance to power came to be part of Velshi's family values that would be handed down to each generation.

Discussion at the meeting led to looking at current issues in the world and personal stories.

Pat Udell told of being raised as a Roman Catholic. One day when she was 6-years-old she told her mother she was hungry. When her mother offered her a hot dog, Pat was appalled because it was Friday and against the church rules to eat meat on Friday. Her mother lovingly told her that those were the church's rules not God's rule. God would not want any of God's children to be hungry. The distinction made sense to Pat and as she matured it helped explain many things in her faith with God and her relationship with the church.

Next month's discussion selection is “The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store” by James McBride. All are welcome to the August 13 meeting at Chris McCarty's home in Simi Valley.



St. Francis is much more than a congregation. It's a group of individuals in a fellowship. . . a community. . . a family. As family members it would be great to know each other better and share what is going on in each of our busy lives. So, briefly tell us what's happening with you and your family --- your births, family weddings, job promotions, graduations, new jobs, vacations, accomplishments, life events . . . you name it and we'd like to share it in the monthly "Franciscan". Just e-mail your happenings to Doug Onyon at stfrancis.simi@gmail.com and let's get to know each other better!

Stay Connected With Us!

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141
- Pastoral Care via email 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>

Parish Healing Prayer Needs:

Barbara, Reina, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Scott, Lee, Michael, Kim, Jean, Braydon, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Yvonne, Dee, Jeff, Jim, Bill & Leslie, Jamie, Jan, David, Lee, Trish, Sue, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Bob & family, Edith, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D., Frances, Patrick, Margaret, Beverly, Margie, Alan, Kevin, Eve, Amy, Judy, Bernadette, Arianna, Pam, Sammie, Gerri, Steven, John, Tiffany, Leo, David, Henry, Cheryl, Ana, Susan, Peggy.

Coming Soon!

Vicar's Forum First Sunday of the Month starting September 1. We will be offering teaching time after the service to talk about service texts for that morning. Do you have questions about the Church and why we do what we do? Come and learn and bring your questions. Grab a cup of coffee and be with us in an informal discussion as we look at the Scriptures and our practices of worship.

ECW – Episcopal Church Women

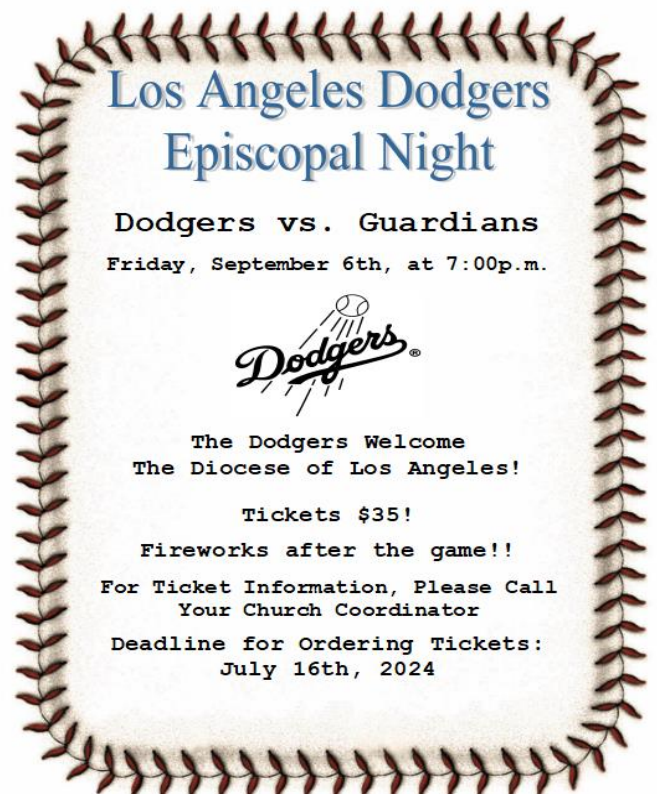
Please contact Sylvia M. or Pat U. if interested. Meetings held first Friday of the month in the sanctuary at 5:30 pm.

Interested in Joining a Book Club?

Contact Chris McCarty for details.

SUMMER EVENTS:

August 25th – Jazz on the Patio
September 6th – Episcopal Dodger Night
September 1st – Vicar's Forum First Sunday





Jazz on the Patio Concert Series is in full swing this summer!

Please consider joining us:

[AUGUST 25th](#) headlined by The Pachecos; Lydia and Peter returning to the stage at St Francis with a line-up to wrap up the summer series. Shaking it up with a Latin Jazz ensemble including Bongos! ... On the Patio, *FREE!*

**Bring your Picnic, your family, neighbors, friends, pets
... Bring them all or come solo. - Just COME!**

B.Y.O.P. (Bring your own Picnic) to be enjoyed on the grass or on the patio at one of our pre-set tables. We provide the drinks or you're welcome to bring your own.

FREE of charge

Concert kicks off at 6PM; in perfect timing for patio to be optimally shaded as we begin the night of music under the canopy of string lights...

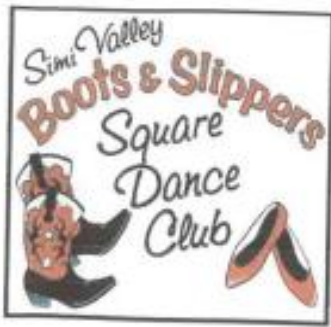
August 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Chrissy B.	Gerri H.	Tracy H.	
LEM	Lisa N. Evie M.	Kerri-Jo H.	Tracy H.	Craig A.	
Usher / Greeter	Ted W.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	Rebecca S	
Altar Guild	Chrissy B.	Cathy G.	Tracy H.	Chris M.	
Preaching	Rev. Nancy Brown	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	

Sept 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Sept 1	Sept 8	Sept 15	Sept 22	Sept 29
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	Bernadette
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Tracy H.	Chrissy B.	Kerri-Jo H.	Tracy H.
LEM	Tracy H.	Kerri-Jo H.	Craig A.	Lisa N. Evie M.	Chrissy B.
Usher / Greeter	Ted W.	Reuben A.	Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Reuben A.
Altar Guild	Tracy H.	Cathy G.	Chris M.	Chrissy B.	Gerri H.
Preaching	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.

Please let the Church Office know if you are unable to serve your scheduled day. Thank you for Serving!



You're Invited! **Learn to** **Square Dance!**

Monday, September 9th

Boots and Slippers Square Dance Club
begins their 2024-25 Square Dance Class

Come to our Class & Prepare to have Fun!

Registration 6:30 P.M.

Class starts at 7:00pm to 9:00pm on Mondays

*The first Class, registration/orientation
on September 9th, is FREE!*

Everyone is Welcome –
Couples, Singles and Youngsters
(12 years & up)



Location: Simi Valley Senior Center
3900 Avenida Simi
(between Tapo Canyon & Lemon Ave)
(Not a Senior Center Associated activity)

Club Presidents: Lynn Welborn (805) 551-5802
Glenda Hamburg (818) 388-7015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm 6 pm H.H. HOA	2 8 pm AA PH	3 Private Event
4 Rev Nancy Brown Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	5 8 pm Men's AA	6 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm	7 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	8 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	9 8 pm AA PH	10
11 Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	12 8 pm Men's AA	13 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	14 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	15 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	16 8 pm AA PH	17
18 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	19 8 pm Men's AA	20 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	21 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	22 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	23 8 pm AA PH	24
25 Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Jazz on the Patio Bishop's Committee Mtg 6:30 Men's AA PH	26 8 pm Men's AA	27 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	28 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	29 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	30 8 pm AA PH	31

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Newsletter – August 2024

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065
Phone 805.526.5141
www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org

TO:



FREE LIVE MUSIC!!
Bring Your Picnic
6PM



Join Us:

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