

# The Franciscan



July 2024

● **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*

• *Service/Outreach*  
*Gerri Harrington*

• *Worship*  
*Chris McCarty*

## From Our Vicar...

Toward the end of his life, St. Francis told the brothers, "Let us begin, brothers, to serve the Lord God, for up until now we done little or nothing." I wonder if we consider such a statement of one whom we know served so selflessly and constantly. Yet, St. Francis would each day begin anew to consider how he would serve, and where God was calling him.

... Read Article on pg.2

We're  
Collecting  
School Supplies  
for Back to  
School. Ask  
Sylvia Moya for  
details.  
**Drive ends July  
31st.**

## ECW School Supply Drive



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280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065

Email: [stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)

[www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org](http://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org)

office- 805.526.5141

fax- 805.520.3819

# From Our Vicar...

God's Holy Spirit cannot be grasped, contained, comprehended,  
controlled, manipulated or possessed.

The Spirit grasps us, possesses us.

Like fire, it is alive and free.

We feel the heat of the flames,  
but we cannot enclose and retain them in our hands.

Like wind, we can hear it in the trees,  
feel it on our faces as we walk in the hills,

but if we try to grasp and hold it  
in our hands it is lost.

*-Br. Geoffrey Tristram Society of Saint John the Evangelist*

We continue to live into the Pentecost Season or what also is known as Ordinary Time, the longest liturgical season of the year. It is the time that we are aware of the Spirit's presence around us as we go about our everyday lives. It is the Summer Solstice, beginning of Summer and end of the Spring. It is a time of changing rhythm when we often adjust our schedules to include vacations, beach visits, picnics and special family gatherings. In times of change, it is also a time of reflection. We consider projects that we want to accomplish, and often put things away that are already done.

Toward the end of his life, St. Francis told the brothers, "Let us begin, brothers, to serve the Lord God, for up until now we done little or nothing." I wonder if we consider such a statement of one whom we know served so selflessly and constantly. Yet, St. Francis would each day begin anew to consider how he would serve, and where God was calling him.

In this season of Ordinary Time, I offer this consideration as we go about our activities. Would we consider each morning a simple prayer saying, "God, how can we be in this day your light and Holy Spirit as we go to work, play, be with friends and family?" As we welcome summer's play and relaxation, might we look around and notice where we see the Holy Spirit's presence? Are we willing to ask the Holy Spirit to grasp us, possess us, feel ourselves alive once again in all God's Love?

In Quantum physics, the cosmos is mirrored in the microcosm. In other words, we can see the movement of the cosmos in the smallest moments of life. As we live into this mystery, and allow ourselves to experience this from one small place to the next, we realize the Spirit is contagious, shareable and reshapes the world. That's what we're on about, changing the moment from one to another in God's love.

Wake up tomorrow and be expectant to change the moments of your ordinary life through the presence of God's Spirit moving through you, and be alive to the quickening of each small moment that you are living. Blessed Summer of Joy to you!



“Jesus says, ‘From everyone to whom much has been given,  
much will be required.’

We have been created in the image of God,  
who is generous,  
and it is of our essence to see the world in the same way,  
and to live with enormous generosity.”

*-Br. Curtis Almquist  
Society of Saint John the Evangelist*

St Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church is an enormously generous church. We serve our brothers and sisters in Bogotá, Colombia with faithful sponsorship for students as they work in transforming lives through educational assistance. We often bring in food and needed items for the Samaritan Center, and diapers and wipes for the Baby Closet. We open our doors in hospitality and welcome all people and hope they are comfortable and feel at home among us. St. Francis of Assisi is an enormously generous church.

Each member has prayed and sought the Lord as to a pledge for our church life. We have committed some of our resources to sustain our community and shared fellowship together. We offer our resources when others have need and seek to be faithful to fulfill what we have pledged to the Lord.

This summer, as we participate in our various activities and summer fun that takes us away from our communal life in shared worship, may we continue to be faithful to our pledges and keep the church sustained through the summer months? The summer is a quieter time around St. Francis, with our occasional Jazz on the Patio, private parties, and hospitality offered to user groups on the grounds.

Let us do our part in faithful partnership of all that God has given us to keep our tithes and pledges monthly. If we have missed some of what we pledged in January to give to the church, may we seek the Lord to catch up and be a blessing to all who worship and fellowship at St. Francis.

As Jesus is generous with us, may we be generous with one another, and all for Christ's sake. Amen.

# Doug's Corner

## Meet Amy Brown

Amy Brown calls herself a “cradle Episcopalian”. She is the daughter of Prince of Peace Episcopal Church founders in Woodland Hills where she and her brother and sister were born and raised. When she moved to Simi Valley in 1989, she knew she had found her Simi Valley “spiritual home and community” at St. Francis. Led by Rev. Barbara Mudge, the congregation was so small it fit in the main building of what is now the Samaritan Center.

Amy has been very busy over the years. She attended UCLA and later received her Master of Arts in Education. She married her husband Fred with whom she raised two daughters. Fred supported her and the family when Amy and her best friend Fran began a Chatsworth summer camp in 1982, each contributing \$1,000. The camp became such an overwhelming success that they



were able to lease a 16-acre camp site with a small school and swimming pool on it. Over seven years they created a beautiful facility with an archery range, 15 horses, a fish pond and a huge clientele. Knowing that the grounds and school were about to be sold in 1987, Amy and her friend bought a small school in Simi Valley, which they grew in 27 years to 300 students at a five-acre facility. When her friend was ready to retire, they sold the school in 2014 but she remained with the new owners to assist with the transition until 2019.

Amy and Fred lost their older daughter Megan in 1997 to a sudden heart ailment. She was a senior at La Reina High School. The church community led by Rev. Julie Christian was there for her family with

tremendous support. “God was with us and we were able to survive and, in many ways, prosper as the years went by.” Their daughter Kaitlin attended UC San Diego and received her PhD in anthropology/archeology from UC Santa Barbara and now teaches at CSUN. Rev. Sarah presided over Kaitlin and her husband Wren’s wedding ceremony in December of 2020. They are parents of a beautiful grandson and live in Moorpark. \*A granddaughter is about to be born



very soon. Fred has some health issues and will have surgery next month to help him walk.

Retirement hasn’t slowed down Amy. She has traveled to more than 22 countries. Amy has



spent many years serving St. Francis. She became Bishop’s Warden during the previous vicar’s ministry. Having rotated the position every three years, she currently serves today on the Bishop’s Committee.

“I am so profoundly grateful for Christ in my life and for church as well as the St. Francis community. I have so many friends here who share in my faith, and our wonderful Sarah who has helped me in innumerable ways, most especially with her positive and contagious faith and outlook.”

*\*Since the release of this article, Amy’s Granddaughter has been welcomed to the family - a healthy, beautiful baby girl.*



## 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.

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### 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

*Article submission by Joyce Stephenson:*

Hospitality Hour June 30<sup>th</sup> An early Fourth of July celebration was prepared by the Hospitality Committee, Edie Folsom Fox, Bernadette Schnaible, and Joyce Stephenson. Decorations included three large flags from Joyce Stephenson's collection including the Fort McHenry Flag which inspired Francis Scott Key to write the lyrics of the Star-Spangled Banner in 1814 after experiencing the battle that night in September. This poem with music became the official United States anthem in 1931.

Edie had also contributed various red, white, and blue table and counter decorations. She barbecued hot dogs and there was all the fixings to go with that. Ana Figueredo made chicken sandwiches, Bernadette brought potato salad and cheeses. Somebody (?) brought cookies., We sang God Bless America as we gathered before eating as our prayer. This song had also been in contention for the position of the national anthem.



Have a safe Fourth!

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### *Entering Worship Space*

*As a worshipping congregation, we are building our hospitality and shared worship to all who come through the doors, and around the grounds at St. Francis. We extend our hands openly to hold all those around us. But what is a worshipping space? Is it just the sanctuary, the building, the service, the bulletin, the music, the preaching?*

*Each Sunday we allow ourselves to show up, listen and be faithful to be in God's presence with one another. We make a dedicated time and appointment with God and God's people to quiet our minds and the world around us, even for but an hour, and to hear our longings, our prayers and our hopes and dreams. We uphold ourselves before God and we uphold one another in prayers, in peace.*

*Each Sunday we come with open hands outstretched to receive hungrily the bread of God's salvation and to drink the wine of the promise of new life. We come empty handed and God fills our hands, overflowing to extend them to the world's needs. We bring ourselves gladly and offer again our lives for God's transformative power.*

*Welcome to worship. Come be with us. Stay for awhile or longer. Linger in the presence of God's Spirit and God's people around you. Allow yourself to be touched by God's love in unexpected places and through means that are consecrated to be a gift. God holds open the door for everyone to come and enter into worship and be filled once again with God's love. Blessings on us all. – Rev. Sarah*

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***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](mailto: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](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>

### 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.*

### **SUMMER EVENTS:**

*June 1<sup>st</sup> -July 31<sup>st</sup> - ECW School Supply Drive  
July 28<sup>th</sup> - Jazz on the Patio  
August 25<sup>th</sup> – Jazz on the Patio  
September 6<sup>th</sup> – Episcopal Dodger Night*

**For Ticket Information, Connect with our Church  
Dodger Night Coordinator: Cathy G.**

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.

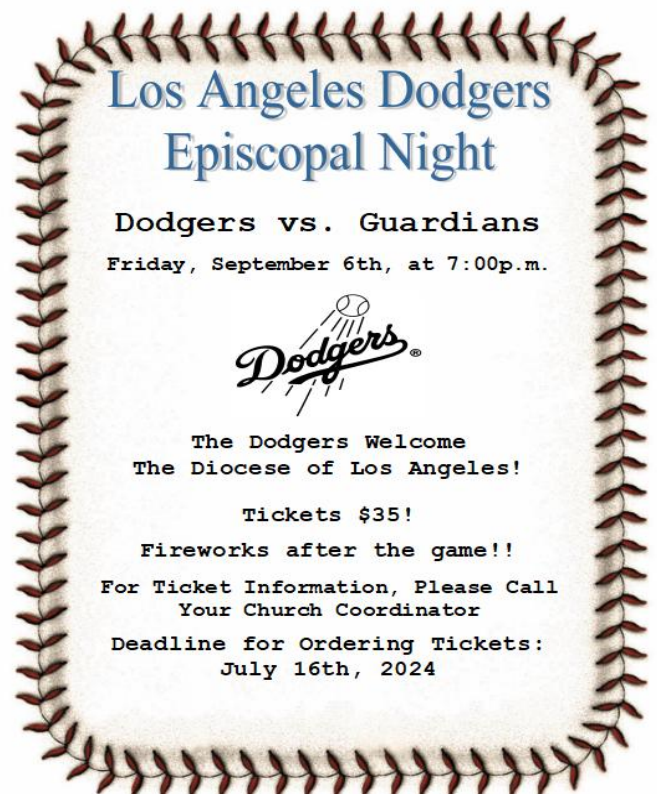
### **Interested in Joining a Book Club?**

**Contact Chris McCarty for details.**

### ***4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month***

Please bring your diapers, wipes, and baby toiletries in support of the Baby Closet and their needs. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please speak with Gerri Harrington or Rev Sarah.

The Baby Closet is open weekly Tuesdays and  
Thursdays 10:30 am – 11:30 am







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

**Please consider joining us on:**

[JULY 28<sup>th</sup>](#) as we welcome EQUINOX – a Latin Band.  
Come one; Come all!

[AUGUST 25<sup>th</sup>](#) will be headlined by The Pachecos, returning to the stage at St Francis with a line-up to wrap up the summer series ... Still on the Patio, Still *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 bring the drinks or you're welcome to bring your own.

Each night is *FREE* of charge.

Each 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...

## July 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28	
<b>Lector (O.T./Psalm)</b>	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
<b>Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)</b>	Reuben A.	Chrissy B.	Gerri H.	Tracy H.	
<b>LEM</b>	Lisa N. Evie M.	Tracy H.	Kerri-Jo H.	Craig A.	
<b>Usher / Greeter</b>	Ted W.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	Rebecca S	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Gerri H.	Tracy H.	Cathy G.	Chris M.	
<b>Preaching</b>	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Nancy Brown	

## August 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

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

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



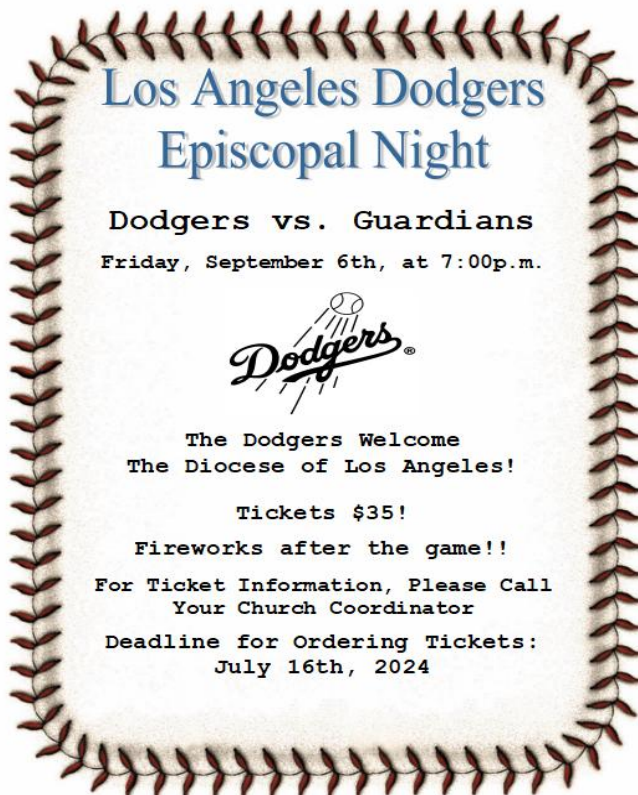
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Samaritan Dinner  8 pm Men's AA	<b>2</b> Baby Closet 10:30-11:30  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	<b>3</b> <b>10 am Healing &amp; Eucharist Service</b>  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>4</b>  7pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm 6 pm H.H. HOA	<b>5</b>  8 pm AA PH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

# The Franciscan

## Newsletter – July 2024


St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church  
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065  
Phone 805.526.5141  
[www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org](http://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org)

**TO:**



**Los Angeles Dodgers  
Episcopal Night**

**Dodgers vs. Guardians**  
Friday, September 6th, at 7:00p.m.



The Dodgers Welcome  
The Diocese of Los Angeles!

Tickets \$35!  
Fireworks after the game!!

For Ticket Information, Please Call  
Your Church Coordinator

Deadline for Ordering Tickets:  
July 16th, 2024



### Join Us:

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