



The Franciscan



September 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...

. "Paying attention to God's Grace around us is an act of faith and a spiritual discipline. It's an act of faith that we believe that in every circumstance and situation, Grace is present with us. God is present with us. We are never absent of God's love with us." ...

... Read Article on pg.2

Featured in Doug's Corner...

This Month's "Getting to know you" article featuring Pat Udell



... Read Article on pg. 5



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From Our Vicar...

Faith is the word that describes the direction our feet start moving when we find that we are loved. Faith is stepping out into the unknown with nothing to guide us but a hand just beyond our grasp. Frederick Buechner, The Alphabet of Grace

Our feet are moving into the transition between the summer months of leisure and the fall of festivals, feasting and freshness. For some are returning to school schedules and fall needs of an increased calendar of deadlines and appointments. For some, September begins to shift the focus to family gatherings and opportunities to think about yearly recipes! But perhaps I'm ahead of myself.

Frederick Buechner's quote brings me back to what is essential. "We find that we are loved." In our experience at St Francis, we find that we are loved through our beautiful grounds, the peace of the surroundings and the sense of God's presence. We find we are loved through our community of welcoming. We find that we are loved as we share God's Grace with one another.

Then in faith we step out into the unknown with the awareness of God's love all around us. As we begin to turn into the fall months of change, we place ourselves again into God's loving hands to lead us, guide us, and direct our steps. Whether it is to go to school once again, or looking a little ahead for family gatherings, we place ourselves in God's loving Grace.

Paying attention to God's Grace around us is an act of faith and a spiritual discipline. It's an act of faith that we believe that in every circumstance and situation, Grace is present with us. God is present with us. We are never absent of God's love with us. We pause, we breathe, we pray, and ask for the eyes of our heart, our minds and our spirits to perceive Grace. In the hurried schedules, or the changes of the seasonal light, or the shifting of the patterns of our lives, we ask to feel and know Grace.

It's also a spiritual discipline. It's moving our feet and finding ourselves in places where we know Grace abounds. Whether it's quietly reading a devotional, going to church, being with other people who raise our spirits in hope, we pattern our lives to be in places of Grace. The spiritual discipline of paying attention to what we're focusing on, and how we are spending our time. Paying attention to what has our attention. Is it the media, Facebook, spiritual reading, the to-do list, etc.

The change of season offers us an opportunity to change our awareness and our focus. Where am I moving my feet in growing faith, and where do I find myself that I know I am loved. As September days move us from Summer Months to Fall Harvest, may we give ourselves the opportunity to renew our awareness and focus for all that God is doing – in faith. The hand that is outstretched to lead us, direct us and guide us into abundant LIFE.



Creation tide: September 1st- October 4th

Creation Tide or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. Here at St Francis, it is very fitting that we focus on Creation and our participation in stewarding all that God has made. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of Creation and our namesake. In our Sunday worship our liturgy will reflect Creation Tide through our Scriptures, our Prayers, the blessings and especially the dismissal. We are bidden to take all that we have and bring our light into the world. It is a joy to honor Creation Tide this month with the culmination of our Patronal Feast Day of St. Francis October 6, as we celebrate the Blessing of the Animals. This month may we be particularly mindful of our use of water. May we look for continued opportunity to recycle and compost. May we be conscious of our consumption of material goods, our travel, our use of energy. Let us take this time to reevaluate our part in taking care of our planet. Blessings.

Shelby

Celebrating Saint Francis' Patronal Feast Day with the annual Blessing of the Animals Service

SAVE THE DATE



As part of observing creation tide, which honors the earth and its creatures, St. Francis Episcopal Church will be holding a special e-waste collection. The collection box will be in the Narthex throughout the season of creation.



We continue to also hold our 4th Sunday of the month *Recycling Sunday* – bring your CRV recycling and we will put those CRV funds to good use.

Thank you for helping us take care of our environment!

Autumnal Equinox

Celebrating the transition of the seasons



**September
22nd
6:30 PM**



Doug's Corner

Meet Pat Udell

Music has always been an important part of Pat Udell's life. During her childhood in Chicago, where she was raised with her four siblings, Pat took many years of dance and music lessons specializing in playing the organ while "dabbling" in accordion and guitar. Pat also sings as she demonstrates so well Sundays as part of St. Francis' choir.

Pat received her Elementary Education degree from Quincy University in Quincy, Ill., and went on to spend many years in the education field culminating in her position of Director of Education at various Sylvan Learning centers for 22 years. In addition to Simi Valley, she has lived in Wisconsin and Mission Viejo.

Pat's religious journey started in the Roman Catholic church and continued through college where she met her "first real connection" with her faith. "Unfortunately," she says she had to "switch gears" once she left college. She and a life-long Wisconsin friend were on the same journey and came upon the Episcopal church. When she moved to Simi Valley, she found St. Francis in 1992, and "here I am today." Besides being in St. Francis' choir, Pat has been a Samaritan Center volunteer, is now volunteering at the Baby Closet, and has become involved with Episcopal Church Women (ECW) and Daughters of the King.

Now that she is retired, Pat spends as much time as possible with her husband Lew, their two daughters and husbands, and their three granddaughters. She also finds time for sewing, baking and line dancing. She loves to travel and is looking forward to her 10th cruise, especially having enjoyed her Panama Canal and Mediterranean adventures.



Getting to know you . . . and each other

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!

Article submitted by Kyle Sarpolis:

Daisy attended summer camp at Camp Stevens!

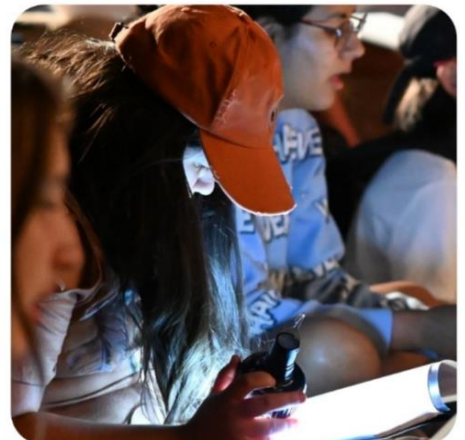
Camp Stevens is a camp and retreat center located in Julian CA and is an affiliate of the Episcopal Church. My daughter Daisy attended the International Odyssey session that annually welcomes fellow campers from the Rikkyo School in Japan.

Daisy enjoyed the sense of community, beauty of nature, creating arts & crafts, singing, hiking, camp food, and participating in challenging group activities. Daisy's Dad was a camper & counselor at Camp Stevens in the 90's. Her Aunts and Cousins were also campers. The family tradition started when her grandmother organized youth retreats at Camp Stevens while working as the Youth Director at St Wilfred's Episcopal Church in Huntington Beach.

Do you know a child who would benefit from a very special summer camp experience? Summer 2025 will be here before you know it. Camp Stevens is an ideal destination for a variety retreats. Information about Camp Stevens is available at info@campstevens.org or by calling 760.765.0028.

Photos of Daisy at Camp Stevens on page 7; provided by Kyle Sarpolis

CAMP STEVENS



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.

IT'S HERE!

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

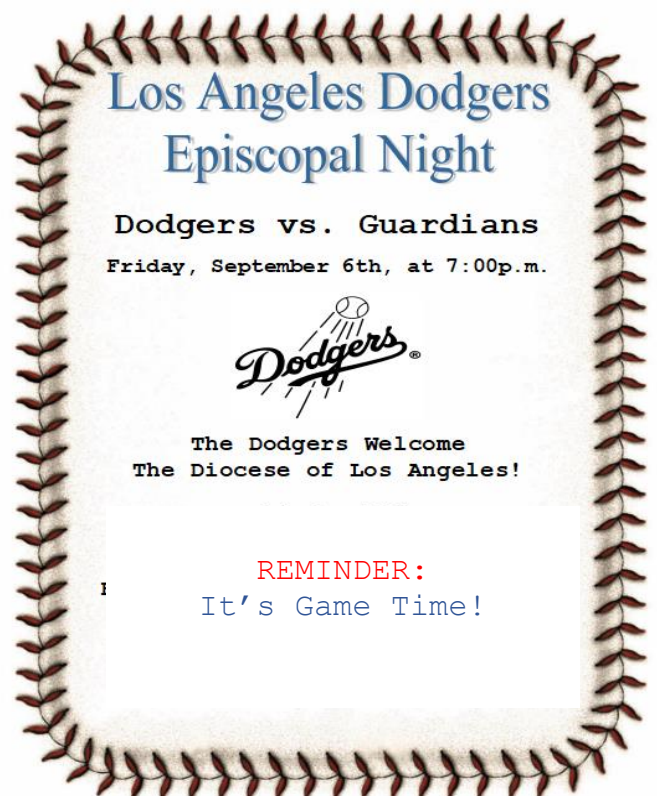
Please contact Sylvia M. or Pat U. if interested. Meetings held first Friday of the month in the sanctuary at 5:30 pm.

Interested in Joining a Book Club?

Contact Chris McCarty for details.

FALL EVENTS:

September 1st – Vicar's Forum First Sunday
September 6th – Episcopal Dodger Night
September 22nd – Autumnal Equinox
October 6th – Blessing of the Animals



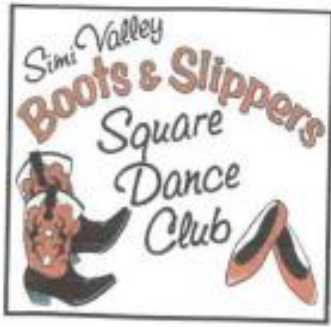
Sept 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	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.

Oct 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Blessing of the Animals With UCC	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)		Reuben A.	Chrissy B.	Tracy H.	
LEM	Tracy H. Kerri-Jo H.	Lisa N. Evie M.	Kerri-Jo H. Craig A.	Chrissy B.	
Usher / Greeter	Reuben A Ted W	Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Ted W.	
Altar Guild	Tracy H Chrissy B	Cathy G.	Gerri H.	Chris M.	
Preaching	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 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music VICAR's Forum 6:30 Men's AA PH	2 Labor Day Samaritan In- person Dinner site 5-6pm Patio 8 pm Men's AA	3 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	4 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	5 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	6 ECW MTG EPISCOPAL DODGER NIGHT 8 pm AA PH	7
8 Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	9 8 pm Men's AA	10 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm	11 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	12 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	13 8 pm AA PH	14
15 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	16 8 pm Men's AA	17 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	18 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	19 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	20 8 pm AA PH	21
22 Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music AUTUMNAL EQUINOX 6:30PM 6:30 Men's AA PH	23 8 pm Men's AA	24 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	25 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	26 Baby Closet 10:30-11:30 7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	27 8 pm AA PH	28 Private Event
29 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	30 8 pm Men's AA					

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Newsletter – September 2024

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

TO:



Join Us:

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



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)