

The Franciscan



The Bishop's Committee

From our Vicar... August 2019



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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 and outdoor barbecues to indoor spaces and kitchen tables. As I read this, I wondered what our time of fellowship and gathering does for us to enable us to remember we are fed with community, supported by bread and wine, and given rest from the pace and clamor of the dailiness of our lives. 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.



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BISHOP JOHN TAYLOR'S VISIT



Robert Craig's Confirmation



Shelby Harksell
with the help of Peter



Bishop John Taylor Celebrating
the Eucharist

John H. Taylor is asking for donations — at **St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church**. 18 hrs · Simi Valley, CA ·

#feedinghungryhearts The six-acre campus of St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Simi Valley embodies both the quiet peace of Christ and lively faith in action.

The congregation's longtime tenant and partner in service, Simi Valley Samaritan Center, provides case worker and other support for the city's homeless population, which increased 30% just over the last year. Contributions of clothing, food, and other necessities from the church and its neighbors are piled high. I got a tour first thing this morning from the gracious St. Francis vicar, the Rev. Sarah Kitch, and Center president Toni Freeland.

Nearby a labyrinth, stations of the Cross, a Bible garden, and colorful new drought-tolerant landscaping inspire a more meditative mindset.

It's all part of a vision Sarah and her fellow leaders have of St. Francis as a contemplative outreach community, fully in keeping with the spirit of its namesake. Assisted by the Rev. Brainerd Dharmaraj, recently ordained and consecrated as a member of the Sacred Order of Deacons, and a corps of devoted lay ministers (including the vicar's spouse, D.j. Kitch, chaplain at St. Martin in-the-Fields Episcopal School), Sarah and St. Francis offer spirited worship (using the beloved folk mass settings composed by the Rev. Rob Bethancourt of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles) at 10:15 a.m., plus a healing mass Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Read more here: <http://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org>.

I was along today to preach, celebrate, and witness, together with the great congregation, to the confirmation of Bob Craig. It was a special blessing to see our colleague the Rev. Kay Landers, who came to church with her children, Jill and Jay, and spoke movingly about her ministry in the Bay Area during the HIV/AIDS epidemic as well as her mission work in Ecuador with her late husband, Dave.

The Holy Spirit had gathered us to reflect on Jesus Christ's parable about the Good Samaritan, and reflect we did, and naturally enough given this friendly mission church's work with the Samaritan Center. Jesus's story inspired the wonderful prayer that Sarah chose to begin our worship: "God of bandit places, love that demands our all: Reveal to us our wounds and give us grace to know our neighbor, tending us with foreign hands; through Jesus Christ, who crossed over for us. Amen."

**Saint Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
Profit and Loss Performance
For Period Ended 5/31/2019**

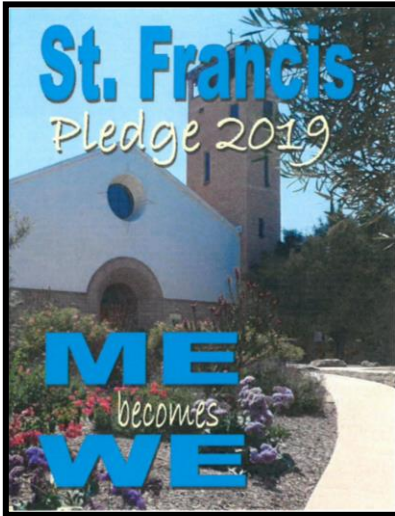
		January to May 2019		Variance	Total Budget 2019
		Actual	Budget	Amount	
Revenue					
1	Designated Fund	3,295.00	2,416.69	878.31	8,300.00
2	Pledge and Plate	49,441.65	62,500.00	(13,058.35)	150,000.00
3	Rental Income	18,151.83	16,900.00	1,251.83	36,640.00
4	Other Income	6,197.73	4,415.00	1,782.73	11,400.00
Total Revenue		77,086.21	86,231.69	(9,145.48)	206,340.00

Expenses

5	Administrative and Overhead				
	Admin Expense	8,247.01	9,592.62	1,345.61	22,788.00
	Utilities	5,696.54	6,620.00	923.46	15,832.00
6	Clergy and Staff Related				
	Clergy Related	39,872.46	37,708.45	(2,164.01)	89,000.00
	Staff Related	11,332.99	12,062.64	729.65	29,000.00
	Music and Related	1,750.00	6,658.38	4,908.38	15,980.00
7	Mission Share and Outreach				
	Mission Share	4,250.00	4,250.00	0.00	10,200.00
	Outreach	408.30	2,023.75	1,615.45	4,857.00
8	Property and Related				
	Insurance	435.47	4,375.00	3,939.53	10,500.00
	Repairs and Landscaping	4,955.03	5,000.00	44.97	12,000.00
	Property Taxes	318.28	0.00	(318.28)	640.00
Total Expenses		77,266.08	88,290.84	11,024.76	210,797.00
Short Fall		(179.87)	(2,059.15)	1,879.28	(4,457.00)

Footnote:

Our total collection for the first five months of 2019 was \$77,086. This was \$9,145 short of the \$86,231 budgeted for the period. The shortfall was because our Pledge and Plate for the period was \$13,058 short of budgeted amount.



For the month of July we are continuing our year round pledge campaign for 2019. You will find in the bulletin this card. If you would consider making a pledge that might be a contribution from plate offering to pledge, St. Francis is sincerely grateful for your prayerful contribution.

How about a quote from Barbara Brown Taylor:

I know plenty of people who find God most reliably in books, in buildings, and even in other people. I have found God in all of these places too, but the most reliable meeting place for me has always been creation. Since I first became aware of the Divine Presence in that lit-up field in Kansas, I have known where to go when my own flame is guttering. To lie with my back flat on the fragrant ground is to receive a transfusion of the same power that makes the green blade rise. To remember that I am dirt and to dirt I shall return is to be given my life back again, if only for one present moment at a time. Where other people see acreage, timber, soil, and river frontage, I see God's body, or at least as much of it as I am able to see. In the only wisdom I have at my disposal, the Creator does not live apart from creation but spans and suffuses it. When I take a breath, God's Holy Spirit enters me. When a cricket speaks to me, I talk back. Like everything else on earth, I am an embodied soul, who leaps to life when I recognize my kin. If this makes me a pagan, then I am a grateful one.

Barbara Brown Taylor, [Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith](#)



DOK Women's Retreat 2020

2020 may seem a long way off though we have had to make reservations and the planning has started for the annual Women's Retreat

We have made reservations for 20 and if you would like to reserve a spot, a \$50.00 nonrefundable deposit is due by November 1, 2019. Save the dates of February 28 through March 1 2020(Fri. Sat. Sun). The cost will be a few dollars more as Mt. Calvary has increased their rates. The total cost for the weekend will be \$270.00 for both Friday and Saturday evening with all meals included, starting Friday evening through lunch on Sunday. We had a great time last year and the accommodations and setting were lovely. It was a fun, relaxing, reflective and (at times) lively weekend. A sign-up sheet will be available in September, so save the date! **February 28th- March 1st 2020!**

If you have any questions see Pat Udell or Leslie Lonergan





**Come join us for Jazz on the Patio,
Sunday, August 25.**

**Bring your comfy chairs, or blanket,
your box dinner and beverages of
choice for a relaxing evening on the
St. Francis Patio.**

**Debby Boone will be coming to St. Francis
December 1 for Jazz Vespers!**

Bishop John Taylor shared during his visit how ageism is another way we make someone 'the other', and move away - often unknowingly and unthinking about it - but still the effect is felt. May we be mindful of how strong our St. Francis community is and be aware of each one, that is unique, powerful, made in the image of God, and truly a carrier of God's light and love. Thank you Kathy, for this very timely reminder for us all.

Reverend Sarah

INVISABILITY COMES WITH AGE

The New York Times had an article in the Styles section about a group of women who were developing a gathering of older and younger women. The article pointed out that as women get older, they become invisible. I totally agree with this observation.

My husband and I moved into a Retirement Community 5 years ago taking us out of our social network. We did make new social connections within the Community. But, since much of my former activities were performed in philanthropic organizations that were too far away to continue, we were really starting anew.

A lifelong Episcopalian I found a lovely parish in Simi Valley only 15 minutes away from our new home. Initially, I felt welcome and thoroughly happy with this choice. Soon I was asked to be on the Bishops Committee, and I accepted. Shortly thereafter my birthday was acknowledged by the congregation and I responded with my exact age. A mistake. Initially, the response was surprise "*you don't look that old*" but it was not long before, I began to recognize that I was fading from view. People were always polite. But, try to have a conversation and they would soon disappear. Recently, we have had some real tragedies in our community and certainly both the print media and Television News covered these events including the fact that many folks were evacuated and many lost homes and family members and pets to the fires and 13 people were killed by the senseless shooting in a public place.

I did not hear from any of my new church friends. I was contacted by my former church in Woodland Hills and by many of my former close friends in Los Angeles.

PEOPLE Magazine's 2019 BEAUTIFUL ISSUE had a page with Stars "*Lovely at every age*". It ends with Meryl Streep age 69. What about Judi Dench, Helen Mirren, Jane Powell, or Betty White all over 70 +.

We have memory problems; mobility problems and hearing may be difficult even if we have aids to help us. But, for the most part, if we are up and out and about. We can still carry on a conversation. We care about our friends and neighbors and we can help others when needed. In the "*Retirement Community*" where we live. I have been delighted to hear the stories of the men and women who live here. I find their life achievements astounding. They continue to work and play and communicate maybe in different ways than when they were young, but they have knowledge and experiences that could be beneficial to those folks who are still working and living in the world they think we left behind.

Written by Kathy Todd

Members and News

amazonsmile

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization, St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church.

Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848

and

Amazon donates to St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church every time you order through Amazon.

Parish Prayer Needs:

Music Program: new music director, Rahn Coleman.

Healing: Lee H., Dan J., Michael, Megan, Jean, Braydon, Hank, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Rich, Yvonne, VanNessa, Dee, Jeff, Jim, Bill & Leslie L., Jan, David, Lee, Trish, Sue, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Bob & family, Edith, Rana, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D. Frances B., Patrick, Margaret, Beverly, Eva.

For Comfort: Janet Johnson, McCarty family, Yvonne Robello, Kraft family, Deb Wollum, The Nilles family. Janet, Patricia and family. Barbara Haryn. Eden Suguitan and family. Margie Roblins and family. Amanda and Xenia delaRoche. Conte family, Morris family.

Quilting turns fabric
into artistic heirlooms
that warm people's hearts.

Diantha Ain



BABY CLOSET

Don't forget the needs of the Baby Closet that is ongoing. Please talk with Gerri Harrington if you are able to volunteer on the days the Closet is open, or to **share in doing laundry as the donations of baby clothes come in.** We will be collecting new and gently used baby clothes, baby blankets, crib sheets, and receiving blankets. Look for the hamper in the narthex for donations ages newborn through toddler sizes. We are open from 11:30 – 1 pm on Tuesday every week Through September, then we will be open Tuesday and Thursdays starting in the fall. **Donations needed of disposable diapers, baby wipes and cream.**

If you have any questions contact Gerri Harrington at (818)521-0313.

MY RIDE

Need a Ride?

We provide rides to Drs. Appts.
Market, Errands, etc. to Seniors.

FREE

Serving Simi Valley and Surrounding Areas

805.304.0806



ECW Episcopal Church Women



The ECW meets on the 1st Friday of every month in the church at 6:30. We would love to have you join us for a time of fellowship and service. Please contact Sylvia Moya, 522-2897.



Are you ready to light up your life? 2019 Bishop's Concert will feature Debby Boone

Get your tickets before August 1 and save!

Bishop John Harvey Taylor and Canon Kathy O'Connor invite members of the diocesan community to the second annual Bishop's Concert, featuring Grammy Award-winning singer, actor and author Debby Boone, on Friday, October 11 at the Episcopal residence, located at 3435 E. California Boulevard in Pasadena.

Debby Boone is known for the 1977 hit "You Light Up My Life" (listen [here](#)), her 1980 country song "Are You On the Road to Lovin' Me Again," and albums of country music, contemporary Christian songs, and songs for children. In 2005 she released *Reflections Of Rosemary*, an album featuring music that her mother-in-law, Rosemary Clooney, performed as well as other songs that Boone felt reflected the woman her family knew. Boone also has appeared in many musical theater productions, television series and movies,

and has written several children's books illustrated by her husband, the Rev. Gabriel Ferrer, vicar of St. Martin's Church, Winnetka.

Gates will be opened at 6 p.m. and refreshments will be served before the performance, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. Valet parking will be available. Tickets are \$60 if reserved before Aug. 1; \$75 thereafter. To reserve tickets, click [here](#). Proceeds will support diocesan ministries.



NEW OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED THROUGH ST. FRANCIS

Our church members have asked what useful items **The Samaritan Center** can use the most.

All shelf-stable goods are helpful, as well as cleaning products and trash bags.

PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN WITH...

- Grape Jelly For Sandwiches
- Peanut Butter (Creamy) for Sandwiches
- Plastic Forks and Spoons
- Toilet Paper (Septic Safe)
- Gallon And Sandwich Size Ziploc Bags
- Soup Bowls
- 10 oz Coffee Cups

More Information: <http://www.thesamaritancenterofsimivalley.org>

Your donations go directly to feed the needs of our community. Donations can be brought to church or left at the Sam Center kitchen door. Thank you so much.



Seeking a deeper path? Spiritually hungry for more? Looking for companions?
Stillpoint invites you to join others for a Spiritual Journey.

What is the Spiritual Journey program?

An eight-month exploration of your spiritual life in a small group setting, deeply enriching your relationship with The Divine and helping you recognize the ways that God/Spirit is present and working in your life.

Who should come?

This program is open to people of all denominations and faiths who are seeking to go deeper in their spiritual walk. We are rooted in the Christian tradition and welcome a diverse and inclusive learning community.

What is the commitment?

The program consists of eight five-hour sessions that meet once a month. Sessions include practice in forms of prayer and contemplation, time for personal reflection, sharing in pairs and triads, experience-based learning, and group discussion of readings.

When and where does it happen?

Classes begin on Saturday, September 14, 2019, with future dates to be scheduled by each group. Small groups are planned for Claremont, Orange County, Pasadena, Riverside, Simi Valley, and Studio City.

What does it cost?

There is \$25 application fee + a \$400 tuition fee which includes all instruction, facilitated group interaction, and private sessions with faculty (does not include books).

How do I register?

You may apply online at stillpointca.org/spiritual-journey and a program facilitator will contact you to schedule a phone interview.



AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9am-1pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	2 Office Closed 6 pm ECW Mtg. 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	3
4 Pentecost 8 Brainerd Dharmarj, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music – 6:30 Men's AA PH	5 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 8 pm Men's AA PH	6 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	7 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	8 9am-1pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	9 Office Closed 7 pm Book Club Book, "Becoming" 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	10
11 Pentecost 9 David Kitch, preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	12 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Franciscan Articles Due 8 pm Men's AA PH	13 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Centering Prayer at Church 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	14 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Cursillo Mtg. at Craigs 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	15 9am-1pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	16 Office Closed 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	17
18 Pentecost 10 Esther Dharmarj, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music, BC Mtg., Baby Shower 6:30 Men's AA PH	19 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 8 pm Men's AA PH	20 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	21 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service, 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	22 9am-1pm Office Hrs 7pm RCA Clare Rm	23 Office Closed 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	24
25 Pentecost 11 Rev. Sarah Kitch , Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music 6 pm Jazz on the Patio 6:30 Men's AA PH	26 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 8 pm Men's AA PH	27 9am-2pm Office Hrs 7 pm Centering Prayer at Church 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	28 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 12 Sam Ctr. Mtg. 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	29 9am-1pm Office Hrs 7pm RCA Clare Rm	30 Office Closed 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	31

August 2019 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25	Sept. 1
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10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Ken S.	Jan J.	Joy C.	Esther D.	Bernadette
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Eden S.	Reuben A.	Ruth H.	Chrissy B.	Andrew S.
LEM (Chalice)	Rob & Kristin W.	Bernadette	Jan J.	Bernadette	Ruth H. Eden S.
Acolyte & Crucifer					
Usher / Greeters	Tony F. Jacob M.	Jacob M. Tony F.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Tony F. Joe Z.	Rebecca S. Tony F.
Altar Guild	Chrissy B.	Joy C.	Ruth H.	Joy C.	Chris M.
Home Communion	Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Ruth H.	Eden S. Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D.
Vestry Counters	Sam A. Ruth H.	Bernadette Dan M.	Amy B. Cathy G.	Janet J. Gerri H.	

If you are unable to serve on the day you are scheduled – please make arrangements with someone else to substitute for you. Please contact the church office to inform them of the changes. Thank you!

Please call Jennifer @805.990.4102 to sign up for Coffee Hour.

August	4	11	18	25	Sept. 1
10am	DOK	Samaritan Center		Laurie B.	DOK



Our coffee hour is a tradition of spending a few minutes together after our worship to connect and say hello to each other. All are invited because the “*feeling of belonging*” is for everyone to enjoy! It’s a blessing to host this time to refresh ourselves before we return to the “*busyness*” of the world.

September 2019 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29
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10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Bernadette	Ken S.	Jan J.	Joy C.	Esther D.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Andrew S.	Eden S.	Reuben A.	Ruth H.	Andrew S.
LEM (Chalice)	Ruth H. Eden S.	Rob & Kristin W.	Bernadette David S.	Jan J.	Bernadette David S.
Acolyte & Crucifer					
Usher / Greeters	Rebecca S. Tony F.	Tony F. Jacob M.	Jacob M. Tony F.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	Tony F. Joe Z.
Altar Guild	Chris M.	Chrissy B.	Joy C.	Ruth H.	Joy C.
Home Communion	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Ruth H.	Eden S. Jan J.
Vestry Counters					

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RECYCLING AT ST FRANCIS

Please bring in your Recycling on the **last Sunday of the month** and we'll put those cans and bottles to good use! Our efforts will help support the needs of a family in our community and will be appreciated. See what glass and metal can do? So mark your calendars now with a big "R" for recycling at the end of the month. Thank you ahead of time for all your contributions!

the Franciscan

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065

Newsletter – August 2019

TO:

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Sunday Service:

- **Eucharist with Music**
10:15 am

Wednesdays

- **10 am Healing Service**