



The Franciscan



January 2022

● **Diocesan Bishop** ●

John Harvey 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/ Communications
Ruth Haskins
- Worship
- Pastoral Care
Jan Jones
- Service/Outreach
Gerri Harrington
- Fellowship/Outreach
Cathy Grimes

FROM OUR VICAR

What does it mean to start something anew? Is it that we've "we've never done it that way before?" Is it tweaking something we've been doing but making it better? Are we like the commercials that profess, "new and improved!" Are we a product to be improved, made better, more strength? I wonder.



Continued pg. 2

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Thank you to all the many hands Both Large and Small that came together to help with the Greening of the Church on December 19th Check out the hall decking festivities courtesy of Sarah and David's photos shared on pages 5&6.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting Luncheon will be held in the Church following Sunday Service on January 23rd. All are invited to attend.

**Bishop's Committee Members:
Please submit your reports by
January 10th.**



Please connect with Reverend Sarah or our Senior Warden Amy Brown if you have any questions

From Our Vicar...

The New Year -

What does it mean to start something anew? Is it that we've "we've never done it that way before?" Is it tweaking something we've been doing but making it better? Are we like the commercials that profess, "new and improved!" Are we a product to be improved, made better, more strength? I wonder.

If we are made in the image of God than there isn't anything "better" to be made. It is God's image that we are created and that is the best! Perhaps then the idea of something "anew" is refreshed, perhaps restored, allowed to be redeemed. Maybe it's about being conscious, alert, and awake, realizing a deeper relationship and connection with the God who created us and LIVING in God's image.

Then what does that look like?

Does it mean I'm suddenly twenty pounds lighter, a blond instead of a brunette, taller, shorter, more fashionable? I don't think so.

It's about returning to the Creator and renewing that loving relationship that we may be all that we are Created to be! Starting anew, as in it's a New Year, is the opportunity in time to mark where we've been and where we are going. It may mean that some habits or practices are altered, even changed. However, those choices come from a relationship with the God who created us and called us to be all that we are, realizing our potential and our humanity!

It may be that I make other choices. I spend time in various ways that are more connected with that relationship with Jesus. I might decide to do things because of Jesus, like following in his footsteps to "love my neighbor, and myself." That understanding might lead me to take actions for putting my time into meaningful projects and pursuits.

I'm changed from the inside as I allow Jesus to lead my life. It's not that I won't eat too much, stop being lazy, or go to church more often. It's about listening to the voice of our Savior, that has come to dwell with us, and seeking the Light and the Star above his birthplace, to lead us to the life we are meant to live.

It is a new year.

Like the Israelites that marked their way on the journey in the wilderness with stones, where have we been and where are we going?

For Epiphany -

If, as Herod, we fill our lives with things, and again with things...

If we consider ourselves so unimportant

that we must fill every moment of our lives with action,

when will we have the time to make the long,

slow journey across the desert as did the Magi?

Or sit and watch the stars as did the shepherds?

Or brood over the coming of the child as did Mary?

For each of us, there is a desert to travel. A star to discover.

And a being within ourselves to bring to life.

-Author Unknown

Dearest St Francis Community,

This is a day of quiet revelation following the proclamation twelve days ago that the world is infused with the divine, that God has become enfleshed to enter fully with us into our experience, to join us in an intimate encounter of ache and delight.

The magi have been journeying these last several days, the epiphany slowly emerging like a winter dawn after a long dark night, imperceptible at first from shades of blackest midnight to the dark blue of earliest morning, to the pale slate shade of pre-dawn light longing to erupt. Then the slow pink ribbons unfurl across the winter sky to herald our awakening.

The wise men followed a star. In the ancient world the night sky and dreams held much wisdom and guidance. They trusted the brilliant point of light beckoning to them, traveling across long and lonely roads to the shape of something they could not yet know. We must also walk the endless roads in the dark, following the tiniest glimmer, a subtle thread luring us forward, a passion for what could be revealed if we only trust something deeper at work in the world. Others think we are crazy because they can't quite see the star with their day-blind eyes. It takes time in the dark for our eyes to adjust.

May we be awestruck by the display of stars, a thousand messengers waiting for us to listen. Let us bow down in gratitude for the year that awaits us. May we listen for the whisper of the Spirit's invitation for us as we say "yes" to the Christ Child.

Prayer -

*Christ has broken down the dividing wall
that made us strangers to one another;
he had made us one humanity
that God might be all in all;
he is our life, our hope, our peace.*

This is our prayer for Epiphany, that God has been seen by all the world and indeed broken down the dividing wall between man and woman, gentile and jew, black and white, social classes and demographics. This is what we live into as we begin the New Year. This is who we are as Christians as we profess our faith in Christ, who has come and dwelled amongst us.

What will be our New Year resolutions in our spiritual growth this year? What will be our epiphanies where we struggle with division amongst our neighbor? Are there spiritual practices that we might put into place to help us as we grow this year?

We are stirred in a New Year to begin anew in areas of our life that we hope to grow and strengthen. Through spiritual practices, fellowship and worship, we experience God's loving attention and grace lavished over us in great love. As we share with one another here as a community at St. Francis, we are blessed to grow in love and compassion for our neighbor and those who are strangers no longer. May we continue to open our hearts and eyes to those around us to embrace each one in the light and love of Christ.



Blessed Epiphany and Happy New Year

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small cross-like mark at the end.

Practice -

Christine Painters, in her online writing entitled Abbey of the Arts, helps us bring in the New Year. She writes:

“In ancient times, wise men and women fled out into the desert to find a place where they could be fully present to God and to their own inner struggles at work within them. The desert became a place to enter into the refiner's fire and be stripped down to one's holy essence. The desert was a threshold place where you emerged different than when you entered.

Many people followed these *ammans* and *abbas*, seeking their wisdom and guidance for a meaningful life. One tradition was to **ask for a word** – this word or phrase would be something on which to ponder for many days, weeks, months, sometimes a whole lifetime. This practice is connected to *lectio divina*, where we approach the sacred texts with the same request – “**give me a word**” we ask – something to nourish me, challenge me, a word I can wrestle with and grow into. The word which chooses us has the potential to transform us.

What is your word for the year ahead? A word which contains within it a seed of invitation to cross a new threshold in your life?”

This is a practice that I have relished for years and has always been faithful as I ask God for a word for the year. How about you?

May we experience a fresh wind of the Spirit in this coming year, as we believe in God's word for all humanity, the word of Love.

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 Live Streamed - link in the St. Francis Weekly
 - Remember to keep in touch with each other through the Phone Tree
 - 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>

Coming Up:

- Women's Retreat Sign-ups Open
- Lee Haack Memorial 11am -January 15, 2022
- Annual Meeting January 23, 2022

2022 Women's Retreat

The 2022 Women's' Retreat will be held at Holy Spirit Retreat Center in Encino, California. If you have never gone and are interested in learning more about Holy Spirit or the retreat itself, please ask me or Leslie Lonergan. Many of the women in the congregation have gone in the past so you could very well find someone sitting right next you that you can ask! The grounds at Holy Spirit offer a restful location where you will find peace and tranquility. There are many activities where fellowship is a part of the retreat and everyone is welcome to join; unless you just want to relax, sleep or go for a walk. Mark your calendars for the weekend of March 25th – 27th, the retreat starts with dinner on Friday evening and ends on Sunday after lunch. The cost for the 2 night stay, which includes 6 meals; will be \$250 for a double room and \$290 for a single. Right now, due to Covid, we may be asked to do single rooms. We will keep you updated on this when we get confirmation.

There is a signup sheet at the church or you can contact me at (805)358-4438 or by email at:

patriciaudell@sbcglobal.net.

Hope to see you there for a fun, relaxing weekend!



The Annual Meeting Luncheon will be held in the Church following Sunday Service on January 23rd. All are invited.

Bishop's Committee Members:
Please submit your reports by
January 10th.

Please connect with Reverend Sarah or our Senior Warden, Amy Brown if you have any questions

Leland D Haack June 27, 1938 – December 4, 2021

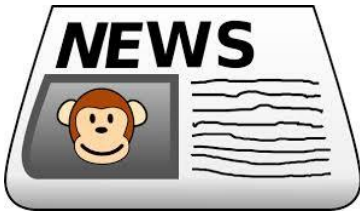
My friends,

It is with great sadness that I write you to tell you that Lee Haack has passed away. A long-time member of St Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church - even from the beginning of the building of the church and before!

A Memorial will be held on January 15th with reception following the 11:00 am service.

We mourn with his family and lift them up in prayer, as we lift up Lee into God's loving, welcoming presence. Please join me in praying for Lee and for his daughters Teri and Debra and their family who survive him.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Lee. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.



December News You May Have Missed:

- Jazz Vespers was held at 5:00 pm on 12.05.21
- Taizé Services were held Wednesday Evenings
- Greening of the Church was on 12.19.21
- Christmas Eve Service - was a lovely service
- Advent Sunday School – Amy Brown and Cathy Grimes led classes all month for an energetic group of little ones.



Greening of the Church





Thank you to all who helped

Bible Study



Please stay tuned for a return date in 2022

Parish Prayer Needs:

Healing: Barbara, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Lee, Michael, Megan, Jean, Braydon, Hank, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Yvonne, Dee, Jeff, Jim, Bill & Leslie, Jan, David, Lee, Trish, Sue, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Bob & family, Edith, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D., Frances, Patrick, Margaret, Beverly, Margie, Alan and Alan's family, Kevin, Eve, Amy.

Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848 and Amazon donates to **St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church every time you order through Amazon.**

Let me touch your life for then mine will be enriched from that moment on.

-Diantha Ain



St. Francis Book Club

We are forming a new book club! Anyone who would like to join us should contact me: Chris M at 805.276.4971



Centering Prayer remains on hiatus.

Please look to join us in 2022!

BABY CLOSET

Don't forget the needs of the Baby Closet that is an ongoing need. The Baby Closet is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays and is collecting DIAPERS SIZE 5,6,7 and has a HUGE need for BABY WIPES.

Healing Service Continues to meet weekly on Wednesdays in the Sanctuary.

All are welcome to attend this casual mid-week service with Eucharist at 10:00 am.

BOGOTA KIDS MISSION

Lloyd and Anita Mix

THE BRIDGE

December 2021



EMMANUEL!

*"The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood.
And the Gift was an invitation..."*

— Pastor Steve McMillan, Bow Valley Christian Church, Calgary, Canada

Because of you ... they have the WORD.



Every child received a Bible at their reading level!



(Teachers checking out our stash of Bibles for kids.)



Every kid was given an academic kit!



Every family received a Christmas goodies bag!

THANK YOU!



Homeward bound!

With 160 kids already enrolled, and January actually our big sign up time, we are in for a great 2022!

**If you are considering end-of-year donations, please remember
BOGOTA KIDS MISSION as you plan.**

Donations may be made through the following organizations. Receipts will be issued for tax purposes.

(To select desired link, please return to email.)

In CANADA :

Bogota Kids Mission
63 Morrow Rd.
Barrie, ON L4N 3V7

donaldllyoung@gmail.com
(E transfer)

You may also donate through:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/> (Bogota Kids Mission)

In U.S.A.

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

Please indicate in the memo that it is for Bogota Kids
Further information:

David and Sarah Kitch sdkitch80@sbcglobal.net

Wishing you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS!

A Call to Action: We need you!



JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Christmas2 Rev Susan Klein Preaching Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	3 8 pm Men's AA PH	4 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA PH	5 9am-1 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	6	7 8 pm AA PH	8 .
9 Epiphany1 David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music BAPTISM 6:30 Men's AA PH	10 8 pm Men's AA PH	11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA PH	12 9am-1 pm Office Hr. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6 pm W.R. HOA 7:30 pm AA PH	13 6 pm H.H. HOA	14 8 pm AA PH	15 11:00 AM LEE HAACK MEMORIAL
16 Epiphany2 Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	17 8 pm Men's AA PH	18 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA PH	19 9am-2 pm Office Hr. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	20	21 8 pm AA PH	22
23 Epiphany3 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music ANNUAL MTG 6:30 Men's AA PH	24 8 pm Men's AA PH	25 6:30 pm Women PH 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women AA PH	26 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	27	28 8 pm AA PH	29
30 Epiphany4 Rev. Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	31					

RECYCLING AT ST FRANCIS

Please bring in your Recycling on the **last Sunday of the month** – we'll put those cans and bottles to good use!

January 2022 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Jan. 2	Jan. 9	Jan. 16	Jan. 23	Jan. 30
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Susan S.	Bernadette	Ruth H.	Tony F.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Chrissy B.	Chrissy B.	Rueben A.	Eden S.	Chrissy B.
LEM	Lisa N.	David K.	Chrissy B.	David K.	Chrissy B.
Usher / Greeters	Rebecca S.	Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Tony F.	Rebecca S.
Altar Guild	Gerri H.	Chrissy B.	Cathy G.	Ruth H.	Chris M.
Preaching	Rev.Susan	David	Rev. Sarah	David	Rev. Sarah

February 2022 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Feb. 6	Feb. 13	Feb. 20	Feb. 27	Mar. 2 Ash Wed.
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Tony F.	Susan S.	Bernadette	Ruth H.	Tony F.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Chrissy B.	Chrissy B.	Rueben A.	Eden S.	Chrissy B.
LEM	Lisa N.	David K.	Chrissy B.	David K.	Chrissy B.
Usher / Greeters	Rebecca S.	Rebecca S.	Joe Z.	Tony F.	Rebecca S.
Altar Guild	Gerri H.	Chrissy B.	Cathy G.	Ruth H.	Chris M.
Preaching	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah

the Franciscan

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

Newsletter – January 2022

TO:

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church

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P.O. Box 940516, Simi Valley CA 93094
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Sunday Service:

10:15 am

Wednesdays:

10 am Healing Service