



The Franciscan



January 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/ Communications*
Cathy Grimes
- *Service/Outreach*
Gerri Harrington
- *Pastoral Care*
Tracy Hurst
- *Worship*
Chris McCarty

In the Christian Tradition, January 6 is Epiphany, the appearance of those who recognized the Savior had come to dwell with human kind. It is the revelation of the blessing of the Christ, the awareness that God has come among us and we have been changed.

... *Read Article on pg.2*

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting Luncheon will be held in the Church following Sunday Service on January 28th. All are invited to attend.

*Bishop's Committee Members:
Please submit your reports to the
office by January 17th.*

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



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From Our Vicar...

Blessing

I wonder if you can receive these words: that you are a blessing to God, and that God is intent on your being a channel of blessing, the blessing of God's light and life and love to all that surrounds you. Can you receive that: that you are a blessing?

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

Now that all the holiday season is quiet, we wonder where this past year has brought us and where we are yet to be. I would like to begin the year with the words of Brother Curtis, that we are a blessing.

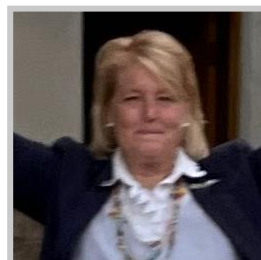
In the Christian Tradition, January 6 is Epiphany, the appearance of those who recognized the Savior had come to dwell with human kind. It is the revelation of the blessing of the Christ, the awareness that God has come among us and we have been changed.

So too, I think this year we can live into a deeper consciousness that God dwells within us and we are a blessing. If each day we might say to ourselves, "I am a blessing because of God within me," what might our day be like? Would we see opportunities with people that share this blessing? Would we look for how we might be a part of this blessing for the needs of others? How would we participate in our everyday patterns of our lives? How can we extend the light of God's love and life that has come among us to everyone we meet?

We are a blessing, because the Savior has come to dwell among us and now lives within us. We are alive in the life of God. As this New Year begins, may we find ourselves carrying this blessing to everyone and everywhere, even as we have celebrated carrying the Christ Child. We now are the ones that are carrying the light that has been born for us, and that makes all the difference.

We are a blessing! What a gift.

Sue



It is a New Year.

A new beginning.

A new direction.

A new consideration for our life patterns and choices.

Just because it's January? Well not exactly.

For us in the church, our new year began at Advent.

Our new beginning began with the prophets voices heralding the birth.

A new direction was given to us when God entered into the world as a baby.

We have been given a new way of life because of Jesus.

That's what the Magi saw when they made their journey to the Holy Family.

Is it what we see when we enter into this New Year?

What will be different for us?

What gift in our life will we give the Holy Child?

It is always a new beginning.

Every day we are given the blessing to begin again.

As we look at a New Year expanding before us, like a beckoning invitation of undiscovered land, why not be intentional about what we long for this time in our lives?

Are there Spiritual Disciplines that we may practice this year that are wanting to be in our daily experience?

Prayer? Spiritual Reading? Community and fellowship? Worship?

What about time spent with friends that you've been missing?

How many of us have letters we want to write, or cards we want to send to someone letting them know we are thinking of them?

You get the idea. We are blessed by new beginnings and marking of a new

Year. Let us be intentional about what is important to us, and claim our

heritage of Christ our Lord given for us to know how deeply loved we are

by God. We belong to God and to one another. May we live anew into this New

Year and celebrate beginnings.

We want to thank you for all the angels that went flying as we supported our Bogota Kids Mission this Christmas.

We are a part of the education and life skills of these children in need of stability and love. With our donations we have been able to give a children's Bible to each one.

Please come to the Annual Meeting and see a video of the work of the mission and how grateful these children are for our participation. It is our privilege to be a part of the light of Christ's love present in this work. Thank you.

Lloyd and Anita Mix

THE BRIDGE

November 2023

BOGOTA KIDS MISSION

Every Friday morning when Marwin, who is five, says his memory verse, I realize how much he sounds like Linus quoting the Gospel of Luke in *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. At The Bridge, Marwin is one of over 100 children dedicated to memorizing scripture. It must make the Lord's heart smile as He hears these words of praise coming from the mouths of babes.

Another takes a copy of her weekly memory verse to share with her public school teacher.

"GIVE THEM MY WORD AND I WILL DO THE REST."

That was God's promise to us in the earliest stages of developing our program at The Bridge. As we have shaped our decisions to conform with this promise, God has been amazingly faithful through provision and fruit.

In faithfulness to His promise, as a part of our Christmas celebrations, we are committed to providing our students with actual Bibles or story book bibles so that they have a fleshed out overview of both the Old and New Testaments that they can read at home. These books often journey to school with the kids and are pulled out and enjoyed during any free time they might have at The Bridge.

Go and make disciples!

In the beginning was the Word... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.



\$30.00

provides for a child these Christmas gifts:

- the Word of God in age appropriate, storybook fashion
- colored pencils for school
- a Christmas treat to share with the family

Your contribution is needed and appreciated!

(We're planning for 136 children at our Christmas close-out.)



We are excited to see the Episcopal church and Bishop Curry's message of love shared with the wider world at a time it is greatly needed. We will be watching at the Regal Cinemas on Tapo Canyon at 4pm. Join Rev Sarah and Church Members for this special movie showing in theaters only on January 23rd. Movie showings are available at 4pm and 7pm at local theaters.

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, 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, Kevin, Eve, Amy, Judy, Bernadette, Arianna, Pam, Sammie, Gerri, Steven, John, Tiffany, Leo, David, Henry, Cheryl, Ana, Susan, Peggy Pauline.

*Creativity
Allows our finest instincts
To take dimension.*

-Haiku by Diantha Ain

ECW – Episcopal Church Women –

Please contact Sylvia Moya or Pat Udell if interested in joining in service.



Baby Shower Sundays

4th Sunday of the Month

Please bring your diapers, wipes and baby toiletries in support of the Baby Closet on the 4th Sunday of the Month to help support the Baby Closet and their needs.

If you have any questions or are interested in getting involved, please speak with Gerri Harrington or Rev. Sarah.

The Baby Closet is open weekly

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 am – 11am

Interested in Joining a Book Club?

Contact Chris McCarty for details.



January 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

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

February 2024 Schedule for Holy Ministry

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

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
	1 Samaritan Dinner 8 pm Men's AA	2 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	3 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	4 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm	5 8 pm AA PH	6 Hank Maar Memorial 11:00 AM
7 Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Private Event 6:30 Men's AA PH 2-5 Mtg Clare Rom	8 8 pm Men's AA	9 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	10 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	11 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm 6 pm H.H. HOA	12 8 pm AA PH	13 Private Event
14 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music 6:30 Men's AA PH	15 Martin Luther King Day 8 pm Men's AA	16 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	17 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 6 pm W.R. HOA 7:30 pm AA PH	18 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm	19 8 pm AA PH	20
21 Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Bishop's Committee Mtg 6:30 Men's AA PH	22 8 pm Men's AA	23 Baby Closet 10-11 CASE FOR LOVE Movie Screening 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	24 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH	25 Baby Closet 10-11 7 pm NA Clare Rm	26 8 pm AA PH	27
28 David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music Annual Meeting 6:30 Men's AA PH	29 8 pm Men's AA	30 Baby Closet 10-11 6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	31 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm AA PH			

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Newsletter – JANUARY 2024

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



Annual Meeting Luncheon
will be January 28th
following the Sunday
Service. All are welcome.



Sunday Service:
10:15 am
Wednesday Service:
10:00 am Healing