

# The Franciscan



## The Bishop's Committee

## From our Vicar... January 2018



• Bishop Coadjutor •  
**John Harvey Taylor**  
(213) 482-2040

**The Rev. Sarah Kitch**  
(805) 526-5141  
(818) 442-4514  
[stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)

### Bishop's Warden

**Amy Brown** 805-231-5502  
[amysbrowns@aol.com](mailto:amysbrowns@aol.com)

### Junior Warden

**Tom Butler** 805-581-4256  
[simibutlers@yahoo.com](mailto:simibutlers@yahoo.com)

### Finance

**Sam Anusiem** 805-760-8143  
[Sea191a@yahoo.com](mailto:Sea191a@yahoo.com)

### Clerk/Fellowship

**Joy Craig** 805-796-0750  
[joy.craig@simivalleyusd.org](mailto:joy.craig@simivalleyusd.org)

### Worship

**Scott Eben** 310 629-8137  
[carpettech@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carpettech@sbcglobal.net)

### Communications

**Katherine Todd** 805 241-4772  
[krosstodd1@gmail.com](mailto:krosstodd1@gmail.com)

### Service/Outreach/Fellowship/Education

**Amy Rasmussen** 805 630-2224  
[amyr@amgen.com](mailto:amyr@amgen.com)

### Pastoral Care

**Susan Swoish** 805-501-5203  
[sis@swbusinessadvisors.com](mailto:sis@swbusinessadvisors.com)  
**Cathy Grimes** 805-529-2723  
[cathygrimes@roadrunner.com](mailto:cathygrimes@roadrunner.com)

### Christian Education

### Membership

**Joe Zepf** 818 770-1279

### Fellowship/Outreach

**Robert Craig** 805-796-0750  
[rcraig562@gmail.com](mailto:rcraig562@gmail.com)

### Fellowship

**Bernadette Schneible** 818-424-2251  
[bnriseml@yahoo.com](mailto:bnriseml@yahoo.com)

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 Christ Child's 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.





## PRAYING FOR A WORD FOR THIS YEAR

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 ammas 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?

**"Lectio Divina"**, a Latin term, means "divine reading" and describes a way of reading the Scriptures whereby we gradually let go of our own agenda and open ourselves to what God wants to say to us.

The first stage is lectio (reading) where we read the Word of God, slowly and reflectively so that it sinks into us. Any passage of Scripture can be used for this way of prayer but the passage should not be too long.

The second stage is meditatio (reflection) where we think about the text we have chosen and ruminate upon it so that we take from it what God wants to give us.

The third stage is oratio (response) where we leave our thinking aside and simply let our hearts speak to God. This response is inspired by our reflection on the Word of God.

The final stage of Lectio Divina is contemplatio (rest) where we let go not only of our own ideas, plans and meditations but also of our holy words and thoughts. We simply rest in the Word of God. We listen at the deepest level of our being to God who speaks within us with a still small voice.

## Members and News

**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.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to Arc.



#### **Prayer Shawls:**

Please remember that St. Francis has Prayer Shawls in the Narthex at church. These Prayers Shawls are to give to people who are in need of comfort. If you know someone who needs comforting and covered in prayer please help yourself.



**DOK**

#### **Daughter of the King**

These are another way to access prayer and comfort. They are small enough to fit into a pocket or purse, and can be taken to the hospital or carried for constant comfort. These can be found in a basket in the Narthex.



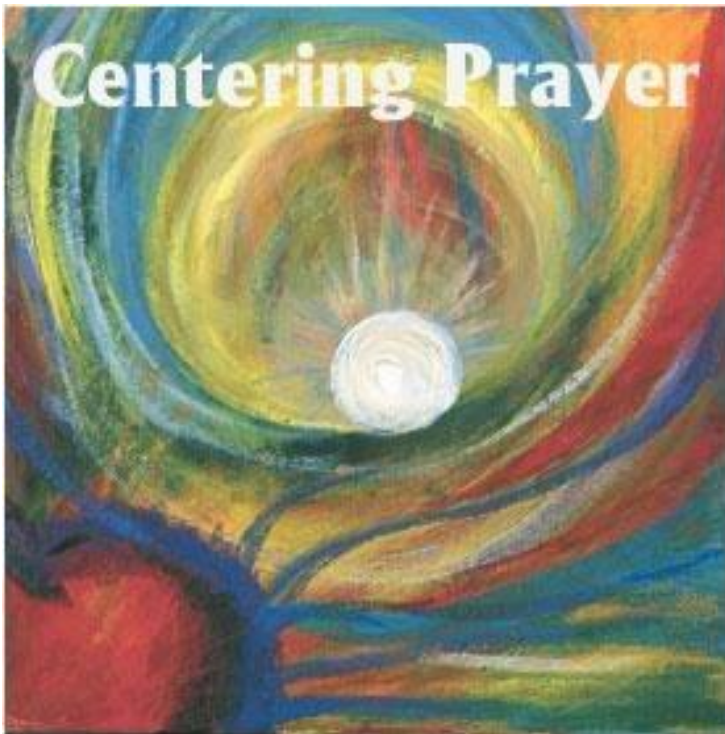
**There are three new books in the library.**

*The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See If you enjoy reading about Chinese culture in the small villages high in the mountains, this is the book for you. See writes about family, mothers and daughters and the cultivation of tea. As a tea drinker, I was fascinated about the intricacies of tea production. I was also moved by the relationships of the family and especially the complex relationship between mothers and daughters.

*The Storyteller* by Jodi Picoult. Picoult book is composed of multiple stories. I struggled, along with the characters, about the right to tell the secrets of others and forgiveness. The story moves from present day to the horrors of WWII.

*All Fall Down* by Jennifer Weiner. Weiner follows a family with a difficult child and a mother's decent into addiction with prescription medications. "With a sparkling comedic touch, true-to-life characterizations, Weiner turns one woman's slide into addiction and her struggle to find her way back up again into an unforgettable tale of empowerment and redemption."





Join Centering Prayer the second Tuesday each month at 7 pm at Brainerd and Esther Dharmaraj's home. 1540 Rose Arbor, Simi Valley, (805)583-5342 and the fourth Tuesday each month at the church in the Library at 7 pm.

The light of the moon  
reminds me how constantly  
God's love lights my life.  
Diantha Ain



## 2018 Women's Retreat

The 2018 annual women's' retreat will be held at Casa de Maria, in Montecito California. If you have never gone and are interested in learning more about Casa de Maria or the retreat itself, please ask me or Kathy Butler. 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 Casa de Maria offer a beautiful, restful location to 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 April 20 -22<sup>nd</sup>, the retreat starts with dinner on Friday evening and ends on Sunday after lunch. The cost for the 2 night stay and 6 meals will be \$280.00. There will be a signup sheet or you can contact Pat Udell at [\(805\)358-4438](tel:8053584438) or by email at: [patriciaudell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patriciaudell@sbcglobal.net)

## Parish Prayer Needs:

**Music Program:** Thanksgiving for all the singers!!

**Healing:** 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.

**For Comfort:** The Heckler family. Deb Wollum, George and the Schneider family. The Nilles family. Conti Family. Janet, Patricia and family. Barbara Haryn. Donna Shiver. Julie Christian.



### 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. In particular, the Kitchen is always in need for the following for daily lunches given to clients: Juice or any Beverages in Pouches, **Peanut Butter, Jelly (grape, strawberry, any kind for sandwiches)** Lunch Bags, Back Packs. Men's Jeans and larger men's tennis shoes. Eggs, Milk, Trash bags: tall kitchen size and 45 gallon; napkins, aluminum foil, Styrofoam soup bowls, ammonia, bleach and tube socks for men and toilet paper. 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.

## BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY



St. Francis will be putting together a Business Directory of businesses that are recommended or owned by the members of St. Francis. We all are always looking for good reliable businesses to call such as a handyman, plumber, electrician, etc.

If you have a business or know of a good reputable business please bring the business card to church. We would love to work on this during the summer.

Thank you for considering how you can help with this project.

## You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support your charitable organization by shopping at **smile.amazon.com**

*#StartWithaSmile*  
at [smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-2558848) and  
Amazon donates to St. Francis of Assisi  
Episcopal Church.



## Labyrinth Walk

Please join us January 6 at 2:00 for a Labyrinth Walk. Chantel Zimmerman, a practitioner and trained Labyrinth Facilitator will be leading us in this Epiphany experience. Why not begin the New Year with a thoughtful, meditative practice of opening ourselves up to God in a way that gets our feet walking! Enjoy the afternoon with fellowship and shared company with each other. The Labyrinth is a wonderful tool to ground us in this New Year and set our hearts to God. Be with us for this relaxing and inviting time with God and one another.



## Sign up to Serve at Coffee Hour

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. Call Jennifer Anusiem, 805-990-4102 if you cannot make it to serve for coffee hour.

## Christmas Eve 2017



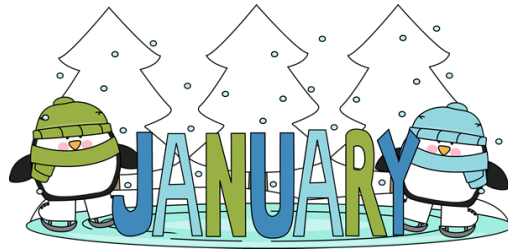
**RALPHS**

## Community Contributions Program

This quarter St. Francis will receive \$106.12 total donation from Ralphs Community contributions. It was only 6 households that helped with this donation. Can you imagine how much St. Francis would get if more people registered their Ralph’s cards and specified St. Francis for their donation! It doesn’t cost you anything, you just shop as usual and give your card or phone number. It is that easy to help your church! You get food and St. Francis gets money!

Go on line at

[community.programs@ralphs.com](http://community.programs@ralphs.com) or visit the website [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) to register your card. Thank you!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Office Closed  <i>New Year's Day</i>	<b>2</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  7 pm AA Clare Rm  8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>3</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs <b>10 am</b> Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>4</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.	<b>5</b> Office Closed  6:30 pm ECW Mtg  8 pm AA PH	<b>6</b>  <b>2 pm</b> <b>Labyrinth Walk</b>
<b>7 Epiphany 1</b> David Kitch, Preaching <b>10:15 am</b> Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>8</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study Resumes  8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>9</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  7 pm Centering Prayer at Dharmaraj's Home 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>10</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs <b>10 am</b> Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>11</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  7pm RCA Clare Rm	<b>12</b> Office Closed  8 pm AA PH	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Epiphany 2</b> Brainerd Dharmaraj, Preaching <b>10:15</b> Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>15</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study  8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>16</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm Centering Prayer in the Library  7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>17</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs <b>10 am</b> Healing & Eucharist Service <b>12:30 pm</b> Sam Center Brd Mtg  7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>18</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  7pm RCA Clare Rm	<b>19</b> Office Closed  <b>Franciscan Articles Due</b> 8 pm AA PH	<b>20</b>  <b>10 am</b> <b>Spiritual Journey Class</b>
<b>21 Epiphany 3</b> Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching <b>10:15</b> Eucharist with Music, Belize Collection  Noon BC Mtg.  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>22</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study  8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>23</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  7 pm Centering Prayer in the Library 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>24</b> 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. <b>10 am</b> Healing Service & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>25</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  7pm RCA Clare Rm	<b>26</b> Office Closed  8 pm AA PH	<b>27</b>  Koinonia John the Baptist PH
<b>28 Epiphany 4</b> Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching <b>10:15</b> Eucharist with Music, Recycle Sunday  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>29</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Noon Brown Bag Bible Study  8 pm Men's AA PH	<b>30</b> 9am-2pm Office Hr  7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	<b>31</b> 9am-2pm Office Hr  7:30 pm Men's AA PH	<b>Feb. 1</b> 9am-2pm Office Hrs.  7pm RCA Clare Rm	<b>2</b> Office Closed  8 pm AA PH	<b>3</b>  <b>Life Line Screening</b>



# January 2018 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Jan. 7	Jan. 14	Jan. 21	Jan. 28	Feb. 4
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## 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Joy C.	Susan S.	Dan J.	Esther D.	Tom B.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Grace R.	Esther D.	Jan J.	Grace R.	Kathy B.
LEM (Chalice)	Esther & Brainerd D.	Jan J. Eden S.	Bernadette S.	Rob & Kristin W.	Tom & Kathy B.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Grace Esther	Andrew Brenda	Grace	Esther	Brenda
Usher / Greeters	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Joe Z.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Rebecca S. Tony F.
Altar Guild	Eden	Joy C.	Teri M.	Megan A.	Kathy B.
Home Communion	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Eden S.	Tom & Kathy B.
Vestry Counters	Tom B. Robert C.	Sam A. Scott E.	Bernadette S.	Susan S. Joy C.	

**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!**

## St Francis Coffee Hour Schedule

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

January	7	14	21	28	
10am	DOK	Gerri H. & Jan J.			

# February 2018 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Feb. 4	Feb. 11	Feb. 18	Feb. 25	March 4
<b>10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</b>					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Tom B.	Joy C.	Susan S.	Dan J.	Esther D.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Kathy B.	Grace R.	Esther D.	Jan J.	Grace R.
LEM (Chalice)	Tom & Kathy B.	Esther & Brainerd D.	Jan J. Eden S.	Bernadette S. David S.	Rob & Kristin W.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Brenda	Grace Esther	Grace	Grace	Esther
Usher / Greeters	Rebecca S. Tony F.	David S. Jr. Tony F.	Joe Z.	Tony F. Rebecca S.	David S. Jr. Tony F.
Altar Guild	Kathy B.	Eden	Joy C.	Teri M.	Megan A.
Home Communion	Tom & Kathy B.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Eden S.
Vestry Counters			.		

**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!**



## 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!

# LABYRINTH WALK

A metaphor for Life; Listening to God's Direction for the New Year



# *the* Franciscan

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

## Newsletter – January 2018

**TO:**

### **St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church**

280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065

P.O. Box 940516, Simi Valley CA 93094

Phone (805)526-5141

[stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)    [www.stfranchischurchofsimi.org](http://www.stfranchischurchofsimi.org)



#### **Sunday Service:**

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

#### **Wednesdays**

- **10 am Healing Service**