

The Franciscan



The Bishop's Committee

From our Vicar... June 2019



• Diocesan Bishop •
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My friends,

We are indeed blessed and privileged to consider as part of the mission of St Francis our outreach and support for the Samaritan Center. It is a vital work in the community of Simi Valley and a part of God's mandate to us as Christians to provide for the marginalized. The Samaritan Center is a unique resource to the homeless as it offers case-management and infrastructure that brings about human flourishing. What that means is that jobs are provided, housing is found, and people are restored to their well-being.

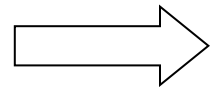
The Samaritan Center is not a day-time drop in center nor a food pantry. Here's what the Samaritan Center is:

"At the Samaritan Center of Simi Valley, we believe that every life matters and that everyone's story matters. We also believe that despite what they have endured in the past, a positive future is available to everyone. Our mission is to understand and meet them where they are and provide them with the tools and support they need to change course. The Samaritan Center is committed to providing the homeless with opportunities and the hope of a better life."

The Website: samaritancentersimivalley.org states clearly "Restoring Lives, Creating a New Future for the Homeless".

The Samaritan Center needs our help with financial donations and gifts. The recent fires and tragedy at Borderline have diverted contributions that have brought a financial shortfall for the daily operations of the Samaritan Center.

However the statistics bear out that the homeless population has increased by 47% in Ventura County just between 2018 and 2019. In Simi Valley the increase was 29%. What that means is that there has been an impact of 25% increase of operating expenses, which include clients medical, dental and transportation needs. You will see on the Website there are various ways to direct your donation to supply needs directly for the clients.



I wish to bring to your attention the recent award that the Samaritan Center received as Non-Profit of the Year from the California Legislature. It is a great affirmation of the work that the Samaritan Center is doing on a daily, monthly and yearly basis.

St. Francis is a part of this ministry. We are partnered in mission and ministry with the Samaritan Center for this life-giving work. Even our Baby Closet is a real part of the active hands on outreach! St Francis often hosts events in support of the Samaritan Center. We are involved alongside our fellow workers in many ways. Please, would you consider prayerfully a financial gift or ongoing donation for the Samaritan Center? You are a part of this transformative work and we need your help and support.



STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0038
(916) 319-2038
FAX (916) 319-2138
DISTRICT OFFICE
27441 TOURNEY ROAD, SUITE 160
SANTA CLARITA, CA 91355
(661) 286-1565
FAX (661) 286-1408

Assembly
California Legislature



CHRISTY SMITH
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY AND
ADMINISTRATION REVIEW
EDUCATION
PRIVACY AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION
JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
THE ECONOMY

Betty Eskey, Executive Director
Samaritan Center of Simi Valley
280 Royal Ave.
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Dear Ms. Eskey,

I am writing to you to congratulate you on your selection as the 38th Assembly District's Non-Profit of the Year for 2019. It was my honor to select your organization due to its contributions to the community of Simi Valley by caring for its most vulnerable. With the growing homelessness crises in California, non-profits such as yours play a critical role in addressing the basic needs such as hunger, housing, and other human services.

I look forward to recognizing and celebrating the Samaritan Center on June 5th at our luncheon in the State Capitol.

Thank you for your dedicated service to our constituents.

Sincerely,

Christy Smith

Assemblywoman, 38th District

**PENTECOST SERVICE JUNE 9
OUTSIDE SERVICE AND
FESTIVITIES AND
CELEBRATION FOR
BRAINERD'S ORDINATION
SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR**

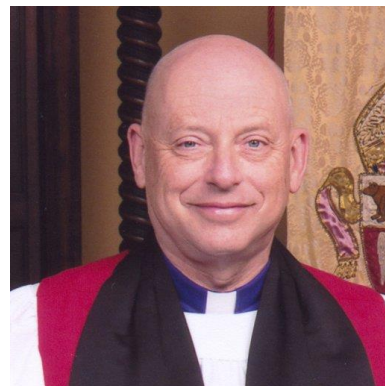
**PENTECOST TRADITION IS FOR
THE COLOR OF FIRE.
PLEASE WEAR RED!!!!**



The Summer Day

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean-
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth
instead of up and down-
who is gazing around with her enormous and
complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly
washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed,
how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

—Mary Oliver



**Bishop John Harvey Taylor
July 14**

Join us for the visit of Bishop John Harvey Taylor at the 10:15 Worship Service. If you have not been brought into membership or confirmed, you can do so on this day. Talk to Rev. Sarah before that date if you are interested.



All Are Invited

**In Celebration of the Ordination
to Transitional Diaconal Ministry,
Brainerd Dharmaraj will be
ordained on June 8, 2019 at St.
John's Pro Cathedral, 514 W.
Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, 10 am.**

**We will celebrate Brainerd's
ordination at Potluck Coffee
Hour on June 9 at St. Francis.
Everyone Welcome!**



BABY CLOSET SHOWER COFFEE HOUR

We are going to be dedicating one Sunday every six weeks for our baby shower coffee hour. It is in support of our baby closet for our community outreach. This coffee hour is dedicated to **bringing diapers, baby wipes and baby ointment cream** to support our cause. The Baby shower Coffee Hour will be June 16!



St. Francis Book Club

Come join our monthly book club.

The next book we are reading is: Death Comes For The Archbishop by Willa Cather. Thanks Leslie for the recommendation.

We will meet the second Friday in June at 7 pm at Esther Dharmaraj's home, 1540 Rose Arbor Ln. Cell 805-404-3629.

Beautiful music
puts the soul in the mood
for creativity.

Diantha Ain



Gardening Group

St. Francis is ready to go into the next phase of drought friendly landscaping. Dan McCarty will be leading the group. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Dan at 805-791-8586 or trumpet.4@hotmail.com. Thank you for prayerfully considering to help with this project.



**Come join us for Jazz on
the Patio, Sunday,
June 23.**

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

Members and News



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: 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.



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 and Thursday every week.

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

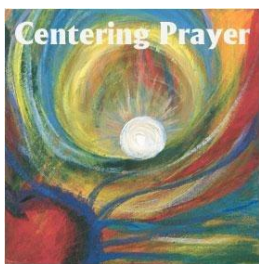
Serving Simi Valley and Surrounding Areas

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.



Join Centering Prayer the second and the fourth Tuesday each month at 7 pm at the church in the Sunday School Classroom.



A Big Thank You

Thank you to the Nilles Family and especially Rick who made our beautiful new prayer stand.

Justice

Participation in God's Mission calls us to raise our awareness and the awareness of others about issues such as health care for the poor, climate control, effective gun laws, economic justice, and how our nation wields its power on the world's stage. God is passionate about justice. How will God's passion become our passion, too?

-Br. David Vryhof, SSJ



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.



Stillpoint

Sometimes my heart does not know how to pray. It is one of the most difficult places I live. But it happens sometimes. It is an honest place, that land where all the prayer that helped in the past isn't helping now. It is loss, in part because prayer is communion with God, and when I don't know how to pray I feel the loss of this companionship too.

Instead of wishing it away, I stay here. I sit as close to the earth as I can and attempt stillness. In this place of not knowing how to pray, Rumi's words feel right, *a crowd of sorrows, who violently sweep your house empty of its furniture*. Without trying to fix or change it, I remain here.

When others are in this place, I set this prayer beside them: *I hold you in my heart*. That's a good prayer. Holding you in my heart is being held in God's heart too. I know that prayer is prayed for me, and I try my best to receive it.

In the midst of this harsh desert, I seem always to forget that I *do* have a prayer that has not failed me yet. It is as if I need to travel a certain distance down this wilderness path in order to remember it. Or maybe it is simply God's hand snatching me from the brink.

It is the prayer for encouragement. I say it plain: *God, I need your encouragement*. Sometimes I add the word, *now*, which I feel is acceptable.

The word for *encouragement* in the Greek is *paraklesis*. This is the word Jesus uses to describe the Holy Spirit that will come at Pentecost. He names it the *Advocate*. We are promised advocacy for our souls. Out of everything God could promise to leave us to companion us, we are promised encouragement.

This may be my favorite thing.

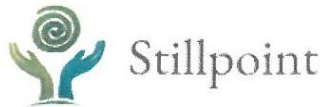
Only the one who is asking for encouragement knows it when it shows up. The encouragement I need may not be what you need. And what happens is that once I have prayed my prayer, my heart is at the ready. The Advocate rises in me, changing me into a *watchman for the morning*.

Despair begins to be met with the anticipation of discovery. What is the encouragement I need? I often do not know, but the Spirit knows.

My experience has taught me that it comes in small measure, no more than a breeze, but what is needed to cool the sweating brow. Enough. It comes in great diversity of form, the whole universe at its disposal. And like the grace it is, always surprising.

Sometimes we are the encouragement God sends forth. I like to remember we are part of God's kingdom of resources for the world. We may never know many of the errands God has sent us on.

The Reverend Elizabeth Rechter
Director of Stillpoint Ministries



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.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Easter 7 Fr. Norman Hull, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music – 6:30 Men's AA PH	3 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 8 pm Men's AA PH	4 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	5 9am-2pm Office Hrs 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	6 9am-1pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	7 Office Closed 6 pm ECW Mtg. 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	8 10 am Brainerd Dharmaraj's Ordination
9 Pentecost David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music, Coffee Hr for Brainerd 6:30 Men's AA PH	10 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 8 pm Men's AA PH	11 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 6:30 pm Men's Group Meeting 7 pm Centering Prayer at Church 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	12 9am-2 pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service 7:30 pm Cursillo Mtg. at Craigs 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	13 9am-1pm Office Hrs. 7pm RCA Clare Rm	14 Office Closed 7 pm Book Club 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	15
16 Trinity Father's Day Brainerd Dharmaraj, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music, BC Mtg., Baby Shower 6:30 Men's AA PH	17 9am-2pm Office Hrs. Franciscan Articles Due 6:30 pm City Council Mtg. for Betty Eskey 8 pm Men's AA PH	18 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	19 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service, 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	20 9am-1pm Office Hrs 7pm RCA Clare Rm	21 Office Closed 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	22
23 Pentecost 2 David Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music 6 pm Jazz on the Patio 6:30 Men's AA PH	24 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 8 pm Men's AA PH	25 9am-2pm Office Hrs 7 pm Centering Prayer at Church 7 pm AA Clare Rm 8 pm Women's AA PH	26 9am-2pm Office Hrs. 10 am Healing & Eucharist Service, 12 Sam Ctr. Mtg. 7:30 pm Men's AA PH	27 9am-1pm Office Hrs 7pm RCA Clare Rm	28 Office Closed 7 pm Bible Study 8 pm AA PH	29
30 Pentecost 3 Rev. Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 Eucharist with Music Recycle Sunday 6:30 Men's AA PH						

June 2019 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	June 2	June 9	June 16 Father's Day	June 23	June 30
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10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Ken S.	Susan S.	Joy C.	Esther D.	Bernadette
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Eden S.	Reuben A.	Ruth H.	Andrew S.	Chrissy B.
LEM (Chalice)	Rob & Kristin W.	Bernadette David S.	Jan J. Eden S.	Bernadette David S.	Ruth H. Eden S.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Esther S.	Esther S.		Andrew S.	
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.	Eden S. Ruth H.	Eden S. Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D.
Vestry Counters	Sam A. Bob C.	Bernadette Jan J.	Amy B. Cathy G.	Janet J. Ruth H.	Cathy G. 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.

June	2	9	16 Father's Day	23	30
10am	Jennifer A.	Brainerd's Reception	ECW Baby Shower	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.

July 2019 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	July 7	July 14 Bishop's Visit	July 21	July 28	August 4
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist					
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Ken S.	Joy C.	Bernadette	Esther D.	Ken S.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Eden S.	Reuben A.	Ruth H.	Chrissy B.	Eden S.
LEM (Chalice)	Rob & Kristin W.	Bernadette	Jan J. Eden S.	Bernadette	Ruth H. Eden S.
Acolyte & Crucifer	Andrew S.		Andrew S.		
Usher / Greeters	Tony F. Rebecca S.	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	Brainerd & Esther D.	Jan J.	Brainerd & Esther D.	Eden S. Ruth H.	Jan J. Eden S.
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 – June 2019

TO:

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Sunday Service:

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

Wednesdays

- **10 am Healing Service**