

- 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
 Cathy Grimes
- •Communications

 Doug Onyon
- •Pastoral Care Tracy Hurst
- •Fellowship Kerri-Jo Hansen
- •Service/Outreach Gerri Harrington
- •Worship Chris McCarty

From Our Vicar...

We are a Resurrection people and Alleluhia is our song. We have been given New Life because of the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and we sing that song of praise every day in our lives.

Continue reading on page 2





Published monthly by St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church

280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065

Email: <u>stfrancis.simi@gmail.com</u> www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org office- 805.526.5141 fax- 805.520.3819

From Our Vicar...

We are a Resurrection people and Alleluhia is our song. We have been given New Life because of the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and we sing that song of praise every day in our lives.

When we follow the Liturgical Calendar, we are given opportunities to mark transitional moments in our lives. As we reflect through the cross, we offer to God our Thanksgiving and Penitence and bring a new resolve and prayer that we might walk closer with God. So it is in Easter Tide, the celebration of the Resurrection in the church. We offer ourselves a new way of life, considering shifting patterns and habits that may be altered.

It is always a new day, a new beginning, a new way of life. Thanks be to God.

In *The Book of Joy*, which I would like to highly recommend, the Dalai Lama speaks about meaningfulness in a day's living. When he was asked what was it like to wake up with joy, he replied, "I think if you are an intensely religious believer, as soon as you wake up you thank God for another day. And you try and do God's will. ... As soon as I wake up, I remember the teaching of the importance of kindness and compassion, wishing something good for others. Then I remember everything is interrelated, so I set my intention for the day; that this day should be meaningful. Meaningful means, if possible, serve and help others. If not possible, then at least try not to harm others. That's a meaningful day." That's living a new life, a new way that is given because of God's life given to us.

In this Easter Tide, may we find a new way of living with one another. May we seek how to be compassionate to others and give meaning to every day. Amen.

Shight

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

SAVE THE DATES FOR SPRING:

May 3rd World Labyrinth Day Labyrinth Walk 12:30-3:00 pm

May 10th May Tea with Chantel Zimmerman 11:30 am

June 1st Rev. Sarah's Seashell Shindig – aka: Farewell Party following service

St Francis Wishes you all a Happy Mother's Day, Sunday May 11, 2025



Most gracious God, from your heart you gave birth to all creation, and through your Son, Jesus Christ, you gather up all your children under the shadow of your wings: Through maternal love may we obtain a foretaste of your unconditional and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Inspired by a Mother's Day collect written by the Rev. Bryan Owen at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge - written by Bishop, Rt Rev John Harvey Taylor "The Bishop's Blog:5-8-22 (Mother's Day)"

Meet Rich and Cynthia Chadwick

Rich and Cynthia Chadwick firmly believe that "life happens --- sometimes unexpectedly --- and you have to adapt to its unpredictability." Faced with the challenges of having two sons, Thomas and Robert, born developmentally and intellectually challenged, Rich and Cynthia have dedicated their lives to the boys' care, development and learning.

The boys' condition was genetic, though never specifically diagnosed. It caused deafness, epilepsy, autism, neuromuscular problems and slow learning. Rich and Cynthia had to learn sign language to communicate with their boys. Their sons went to school at the Maryland School for the Deaf, a deaf cultural center near Gallaudet. the university for the deaf. They also received expert medical services at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore.





Rich, a native of Neptune, N.J., on the Atlantic coast, graduated with a bachelor's of science degree in biology and a minor in chemistry from Roanoke College in Virginia. He attended graduate school studying biochemistry at Virginia Tech University and received a master's degree in computer systems at the University of Maryland. He also attended the Anderson School of Executive Management at UCLA.

After graduating, Rich joined the U.S. Navy and became a pilot. He then worked in the pharmaceutical/biotech industry for 30 years joining Amgen in 1995 as Director of Information Systems for Research and Development. Before he retired, he traveled frequently to Europe and Japan, coordinating the deployment of global information systems.

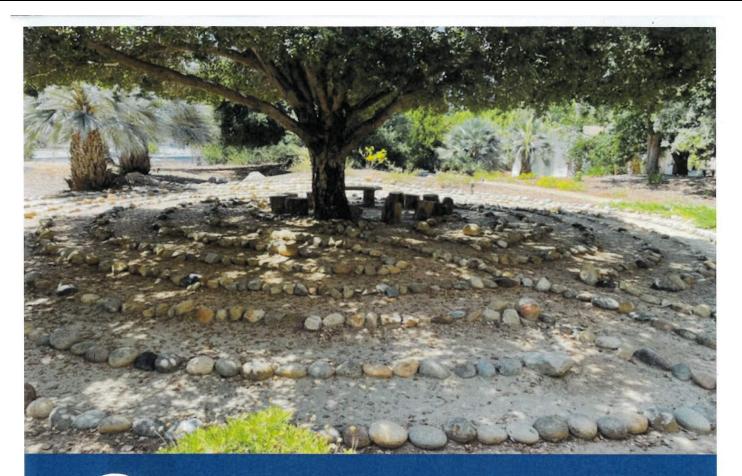
Cynthia grew up in the small town of Narrows in the mountains of southwestern Virginia where both her father and grandfather were town doctors. She graduated from Wake Forest University with a bachelor's of art in English and has taken creative writing courses in Maryland and at UCLA. She has worked as an advertising copywriter for a department store, TV station and a real estate company. Now, in her volunteer role as president of the board of directors for Arc of Ventura County, she has written for "The Ventura Star" and The Arc of California, and has helped develop fundraising campaigns.

The Chadwicks have been active in many other ways. Rich worked with Angel Flights where they would fly patients from around the state to the L.A. area for medical treatment. He says his most satisfying work was with Special Olympics as a coach. Their son Thomas loves sports, especially softball and basketball. Cynthia has helped with the needs of disabled people since son Robert was a participant in the Simi Valley Arc day program. She met St. Francis' Lois Walleck there and they started a parent group. Cynthia also helps cook meals for the Samaritan Center.



Sadly, their son Robert died of a massive grand mal seizure in 2019. Their wish for a special memorial service led them to St. Francis. Cynthia knew about the generosity and caring of St. Francis through Arc and her relationship with Lois. "We met with the wonderful Rev. Sarah who was so compassionate and helped plan a fitting service for Robert," Cynthia says. "We didn't want anything gloomy and sorrowful. Instead something life-affirming." His service included his peers and staff, family, friends and neighbors, caregivers and medical and dental personnel. "It was a community of caring and goodness you can find in human beings." Cynthia says.

Robert loved animals, especially their dog Nick. "So it was only natural that we gravitated to the Church of St. Francis, who loved animals, and now we consider services at St. Francis an important part of our lives," Rich says.





Labyrinth Walk

May 3, 2025 | 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church

280 Royal Ave, Simi Valley, CA

FREE EVENT

Clear your mind and bring insights as you go on a personal and spiritual journey. Join the Labyrinth Walk at St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church Saturday, May 3, for a peaceful and meditative experience!



WorldLabyrinthDay.org



Tickets available for purchase at the door. Potluck sign-up will also be made available in the Narthex.





May 2025 Schedule for Holy Ministry									
	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25	-				
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Susan S.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Peggy S					
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Reuben A.	Tracy H.	Madeline C	Kerri-Jo H.					
LEM	Lisa N.	Kerri-Jo H.	Tracy H.	Craig A.					
Usher / Greeter	Ted W.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	Rebecca S.					
Altar Guild	Cathy G.	Kerri-Jo H.	Tracy H.	Gerri H.					
Preaching	Rev Sarah	Rev Karen James	Rev Sarah	David K					
June 2025 Schedule for Holy Ministry									
	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29				
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Madeline C	Eden S.	Bernadette	Peggy S	Susan S				
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Kerri-Jo H.	Tracy H.	Madeline C	Gerri H.	Reuben A.				
LEM	Lisa N. Tracy H.	Kerri-Jo H.	Tracy H.	Craig A.	Kerri-Jo H.				
Usher / Greeter	Ted W. Reuben A.	Reuben A.	Joe Z.	Rebecca S.	Reuben A.				
Altar Guild	Tracy H.	Kerri-Jo H.	Tracy H.	Cathy G.	Chris M.				
Preaching	Rev Sarah	Fr Brainerd	Fr Brainerd	Fr Brainerd	Fr Brainerd				

Thank you for Serving!

Please note the above schedule is subject to change. Please let the Church Office know if you are unable to serve on the date(s) you've been scheduled.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Baby Closet 10:30-12:00	2 NO ECW	3
					MEETING	Labyrinth Walk
				7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	8 pm AA PH	
4 Rev Sarah Kitch	5	6	7 10 am Healing &	8	9	10
Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music BAPTISM			Eucharist Service	Baby Closet 10:30-12:00		Spring Tea
Melody DOK MTG 6:30 Men's AA PH	8 pm Men's AA	6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA Clare Rm	7:30 pm AA PH	7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	8 pm AA PH	
11	12	13	14	15 Behy Closet	16	17
Rev Karen James Preaching			10 am Healing & Eucharist Service	Baby Closet 10:30-12:00	PRIVATE	Private Event
10:15 am Eucharist with Music		6:30 BOOK CLUB MTG @ ST FRANCIS			EVENT	Lvein
MOTHERS DAY 6:30 Men's AA PH	8 pm Men's AA	6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	7:30 pm AA PH	7 pm AA PH 7 pm NA Clare Rm	8 pm AA PH	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Rev Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with	8 pm Men's AA		10 am Healing & Eucharist Service	Baby Closet 10:30-12:00		
Music				7 pm AA PH		
6:30 Men's AA PH		6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	7:30 pm AA PH	7 pm NA Clare Rm	8 pm AA PH	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with			10 am Healing & Eucharist Service	Baby Closet 10:30-12:00	PRIVATE EVENT	Private Event
Music Vicar's Forum				7 pm AA PH		
Bishop's Committee MTG 6:30 Men's AA PH	8 pm Men's AA	6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	7:30 pm AA PH	7 pm NA Clare Rm	8 pm AA PH	

Please know Rev. Sarah's final day as Vicar of St Francis will be June $1^{\rm st}$. We have a special celebration planned on that day and would love for you to attend & be with us in celebration. More Information to come.



The Franciscan

Newsletter – May 2025

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church 280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065 Phone 805.526.5141 www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org

TO:





Join Us:

- ◆ Sunday: 10:15 am Service
- ♦ Wednesdays: 10 am Healing Service