



# The Spirit of St. Francis



## FEBRUARY

### 2018

All are welcome here.



Thank you all for helping to make the December  
2017 Poz Cafe Holiday Dinner Party  
a night to remember!

- \*Casas Church
- \*Cornerstone Fellowship
- \*Intuit Pride Network
- \*Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation
- \*St. Francis in the Foothills UMC

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Look what you made possible!

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Connections!

AED's: Save A Life!

Cupids and Cupcakes and a Taste  
of Peru!

**St. Francis in the Foothills UMC**  
4625 E. River Rd  
Tucson, AZ 85718  
(520)299-9063  
[www.stfrancisumc.org](http://www.stfrancisumc.org)



Volunteers from St. Francis in the Foothills.

With support from these generous groups, we served 232 people at this special event! This number includes TIHAN CarePartners living with HIV, their guests, the faith community and sponsoring group volunteers, and TIHAN volunteers and staff.

The December Holiday Menu featured:

- Eggnog and Holiday Punch*
- Winter Fruit Salad*
- Roast Beef Dinner*
- Twice-Baked Potatoes*
- Broccoli with Hollandaise Sauce*
- Warmed Rolls*
- Bread Pudding for Dessert*

Thanks to Chef John, the volunteer kitchen crew, and Amity Foundation staff for a great meal!

\* We distributed 111 CarePackages to CarePartners living with HIV. These decorated bags were filled with essential toiletry and cleaning items. All items were donated by this month's sponsoring groups, and by an additional supportive faith community, St. Mark's UMC.



Ready to hand out CarePackages

**NUMBERS TO KNOW:**

Bulletin & Newsletter:  
(520)299-9063 x101

Contribution/Pledge Questions:  
(520)299-9063 x102

Prayer Requests:  
(520)299-9063 x101

Room Reservations:  
(520)299-9063 x101

International School for Peace  
(520)299-8908

**FOR PASTORAL HELP**

Reverend Jim Wiltbank  
(520)299-9063 x106



**The Desert  
Southwest  
Conference of the  
UMC**

**Resident Bishop**

Bishop Robert Hoshibata  
(602)266-6956

**District Superintendent**

Rev. Mark Conrad  
(520)325-2775

**South District Lay Leader**

Maritza Velazquez  
(520)285-6928

- \* We handed out a holiday gift and gift card to 120 CarePartners. These gifts and gift cards were generously donated by TIHAN member faith communities and individual donors.
- \* Volunteer photographers Mark and Bruce took beautiful holiday portraits for 79 CarePartners.
- \* DJ Rich spun a great mix of dinner music, holiday tunes and dancing beats throughout the night.
- \* The December sponsoring groups and faith communities brought 23 volunteers to help at Poz Cafe. Our regular TIHAN volunteers helped to guide these volunteers in an experience of learning and serving.
- \* And of course we can't forget the hugs and safe space that you help create at Poz Cafe every month. This important element enables our CarePartners to meet others living with HIV, enhance their social support, and know that there are caring people from faith communities who welcome them and are working to end the stigma that still exists.
- \* St. Francis in the Foothills UMC graciously hosted this event in the church's beautiful Celebration Center. We heard lots of positive comments from CarePartners and volunteers alike. Thank you to the church and staff for accommodating us!



- 1 Melissa Mitchell
- 3 Elizabeth Fimbres
- 4 Carolyn Isaman
- 4 Lucinda Davis
- 4 Jenni Morrison
- 5 Virginia Encila
- 6 Grace Goodman
- 8 Carol G. Brown
- 9 Dawn Rita-Harris
- 9 Tony Danielson
- 10 Philip Pearthree
- 10 Linnea Chambers-Daniell
- 11 Linda Whitten
- 12 Sheryl Pincus
- 13 Adam Brauer
- 13 Judy Robinson
- 13 Peggy Schlosser
- 13 Dee Farrand
- 16 Judith Bobbitt
- 16 Ginger Leon
- 20 David Taylor
- 20 Margaret Liebig
- 21 Barbara Eiswerth
- 21 James Liebig
- 23 Elsie Uhrlaub
- 24 Carrie Evans
- 24 Donald Tidmore
- 25 Cheryl Muller
- 25 Matt Kaczmarski
- 27 Ross Evans
- 27 Pat Morrison
- 27 Helen Diedrick



The Celebration Center at St. Francis in the Foothills - ready for dinner!

\* Thank you to the December Poz Cafe coordinators:

Vanessa Fajardo from Casas Church  
Pastor Karla Spence from Cornerstone Fellowship  
Thom Gilliam from Intuit Pride Network  
Karen Sparks from St. Francis in the Foothills

These individuals put many hours of effort into planning, shopping for food, collecting CarePackage items, creating table centerpieces, and recruiting volunteers.

\* A special thank you to the clergy in attendance at Poz Cafe:

Pastor Karla Spence from Cornerstone Fellowship  
Pastor Jim Wiltbank from St. Francis in the Foothills



Pastor Jim and volunteers ready to serve up Christmas dinner!

Thank you again for your support of Poz Cafe and for making so much possible through TIHAN.

### **This month in the Ravenscroft Gallery:**



### ***The Photography of Shannon Sullivan***

Shannon spends a great deal of time in nature through daily walks and long hikes, going to more quiet and remote locations. The quiet and stillness of wild lands allows the plants, trees, flowers, animals, birds and insects to come out into the open - not needing to hide or take cover. Through stillness, nature opens a door to her.

One of the ways Shannon brings the natural world to life is through photography.

"Photography" literally means "painting with light". Our world is painted with light and through the photographs, she takes, Shannon gets the opportunity to bring this light into the world for others to witness.

Come enjoy her work in the Ravenscroft Gallery for the month of February.

## A Word from Our Pastor

### ***Even While We Sleep***

Have you ever fallen asleep in the middle of your prayers? Not that you meant to, but somewhere between "Bless Mom and Dad" and "Show me the way" you just sort of slipped off. And a couple hours later you wake up wondering why you're kneeling beside your bed instead of lying in it. This is one of the ways I found out that not everything I had learned about prayer necessarily helped me.



My wife Joannie says that I fall asleep faster than anyone she knows. Thus, saying prayers just before I go to sleep at night is not a very effective way of praying for me. For those of you that find strength in that kind of prayer, please don't get mad at me. I'm not saying it isn't a good way to pray; only that it's not a good way for me.

Maybe you've found out some things like this in your life. Perhaps everyone you know likes a certain hymn, but the words just seem to turn your stomach. Or a doctrine that everyone accepts as truth doesn't quite make sense to you.

Joyce Rupp, in her book *Inviting God In*, addresses her own struggles with these moments of doubt and uncertainty. She has discovered that spirituality is not so much about doing things in a particular way, as it is about "this Loving Presence staying with us and never going away . . . It is about God guiding us and showing us the way in which we are to go."

Your worries and your reservations may be the way that God is guiding you to a new insight about faith, a new practice that will bring you closer to that Presence or a new inspiration of the truth of the Divine in the world.

Rupp went on to say, "I had the insight one day that it was actually a rather beautiful event, this falling



### ***Cupcakes & Cupids***

Friday, February 16th,  
5:00 - 8:00 pm in the  
Community Center

Come out and celebrate Valentine's Day with us! We are going to be decorating cupcakes and cookies on Friday, February 16th. The finished products will be served at our coffee hour on Sunday, February 18th.

**We are asking for donations of baked cupcakes and cookies that are NOT DECORATED.**

Please contact Sheena Sweeney at [sweena86@gmail.com](mailto:sweena86@gmail.com) if you wish to donate.

Have your kids invite their friends, and take this as an opportunity to go to dinner - kid free!

asleep as I prayed. It was like I fell asleep in the arms of God. This thought changed my guilt into gratitude for a kind and welcoming God who understands my weariness."

What is God trying to tell you through your struggles and uncertainties?

Jim



**Come visit St. Francis' Library For Peace, located in the church office building.**

**We have over 3300 books, a large DVD collection of the finest in drama, foreign films and documentaries, CD's, audiobooks and *The Great Courses*.**



**Order your Chocolate Covered Strawberries for Valentine's Day!**

\$6.00 for half a dozen  
\$10.00 for a dozen

For more information, contact Tricia Moore at [musicaloverlord@gmail.com](mailto:musicaloverlord@gmail.com)



**Taste of Peru Dinner**  
Saturday, February 17th,  
6:00 pm in the Community Center

This sumptuous sit down dinner will include:

Canchita Palomitas (Popcorn)

**Choice of the following entrees:**

- \* Quinoa Stew (vegetarian)
- \* Creme de Aji Gallina (Chicken)

### **New Arrivals:**

Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith & Art  
by Madeleine L'Engle

The Elder Brother: Jesus in a Course in Miracles  
by Robert Perry

Seven Thousand Ways to Listen: Staying Close to  
What is Sacred by Mark Nepo

The Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a  
Politics  
Worthy of the Human Spirit  
by Parker J. Palmer

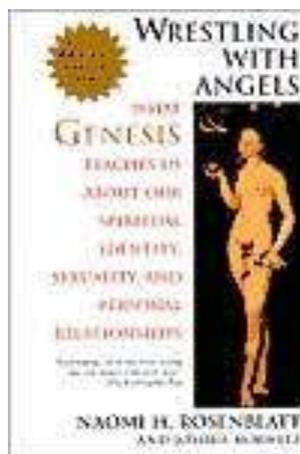
Walk With Me (DVD)

Inherit the Wind (DVD)

### ***Library for Peace***

**Come check us out - literally!**

### **We recommend:**



\* Loma Saltado (Beef)

Alfajores (Dessert)  
Lemonade, iced tea and water

Tickets are \$30.00 per person  
or \$55.00 per couple

**All proceeds will benefit the  
St. Francis Youth Mission Trip  
to Peru this summer!**

### **Weekly Breakfasts**



**Sophia's Circle  
Women's Group**

Wednesdays 6:45 - 8:00 am  
in Ravenscroft Hall



**Chrysalis**

**Men's Round Table**

Thursdays 7:00 - 8:00 am  
in Ravenscroft Hall



If you think you know the Book of Genesis, think again! *Wrestling With Angels: What Genesis Teaches Us About Our Spiritual Identity, Sexuality and Personal Relationships* gives new meaning to these age-old stories.

Naomi H. Rosenblatt and Joshua Horwitz present the very real human challenges of these well-known biblical personalities, the tough decisions that they made and the ramifications of their actions. Then, through biblical passages and the familial, social, political and cultural contexts that surround these stories, they analyze without judgement the often difficult choices that were made. They then relate these choices to our modern times, showing that their

This book is accessible for adults of all ages. Young adults can also gain insights into life ahead and older adults will find this reflective while it provides paths for continued growth. I was captivated by this literary work and couldn't put it down.

- Scott Doty  
Library Volunteer

Once again it's tax season, and many of us will be paying taxes to the state of Arizona. *School Choice Arizona* utilizes tax credit donations to provide scholarships to eligible children in Arizona. Corporations and individuals can donate and claim a dollar-for-dollar tax credit against their Arizona tax liability. With your donations, you create opportunities for children to reach their unique potential.

International School for Peace asks that you consider *School Choice Arizona* for your contribution, and earmark "International School for Peace".

To take advantage of this wonderful program, go to [www.schoolchoicearizona.org](http://www.schoolchoicearizona.org) and click on "donate" under "I am an individual".

For more information, please contact ISP Director Cathy DeMers at 299-8908 or email [cathy@internationalschoolforpeace.com](mailto:cathy@internationalschoolforpeace.com)



### ***Faith Community Connections with Former Prisoners***

St. Francis in the Foothills, Our Savior's Lutheran and First Christian Church, along with Judge Charles Pyle, have initiated a new program. *Faith Community Connections* is helping former prisoners positively transition into the community after their release. We have formed work teams of church members and returning citizens to volunteer to help non-profits. Members of the three churches and individuals from Old Pueblo Community Services living in transition homes volunteered on a project with Habitat for Humanity in November. Now we are replicating this



**Free Tax Help at the  
ICS Main Office  
2820 W. Ina Rd.**

January 31st - April 14th  
Wednesdays, 4:00 - 7:00 pm  
Saturdays, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

project on **Saturday March 3 from 7:30-noon**, again at a Habitat site. Grace St Paul's Episcopal Church will also be joining us.

Interested in being part of this exciting project? Contact Diane Wilson to enroll at [dlswilson57@gmail.com](mailto:dlswilson57@gmail.com) or 297-7908.



***Lisa & Diane Sing  
Gershwin and Porter***

Friday, February 9th,  
7:00 pm in the Celebration Center

Tickets are \$15.00 each.

Explore the lives and music of George and Ira Gershwin and Cole Porter as Diane Van Deurzen and Lisa Otey take you on a musical journey that includes classics like "Summertime" and "Let's Misbehave"!

**Tickets are on sale now!**

**Get yours on Sunday mornings between the 9:00 and 10:30 am services, or call the Church office at 299-9063. Tickets will also be available at the door.**

Bring these required documents:

- \*Picture ID
- \*Original Social Security card for EACH family member
- \*Proof of income
- \*Documentation of deductible expenses
- \*Account and routing numbers for direct deposit of refunds
- \*Prior-year tax return
- \* If you purchased health insurance through the Marketplace, Form 1095-A and dependents' proof of income. Both spouses must be present if filing Married Filing Jointly or Married Filing Separately.

Maximum annual household income of \$64,000 to receive this free service.

**No appointment required.**



***Empty Bowls***

*A fundraiser to fight hunger and feed hope.*

Make plans to join us  
Saturday, March 3rd,  
11:00 am - 1:30 pm  
Tucson Chinese Cultural Center,  
1288 W. River Road

Tickets are on sale now online at [www.icstucson.org](http://www.icstucson.org)  
\$25.00 each

Advance ticket sales only -  
no tickets will be sold at the door.

## Heifer International



Thank you St. Francis in the Foothills for helping us to raise over \$500 during Advent 2017!

Your generosity has helped Heifer's worldwide mission by buying livestock (goats and chickens were popular this year!) and supporting gender equality.

- Jamie Holehan



Reconciling Ministries invites you . . .

Join us for an educational visit to the Jewish History Museum to see the exhibit *Invisibility & Resistance; Violence Against LGBTQIA People.*

This exhibit has been offered since September 1st and will show through May 31st.

Our tour will meet on Saturday, March 24th at 1:50 pm at the museum and enter together. We will have a guided tour and time for discussion afterwards.

The guided tour will go from 2:00 - 4:00 pm.  
Ticket price is \$7.00 general admission.

The Jewish History Museum is located at  
564 S. Stone Avenue

For more information, contact Karen Sparks at  
raykaren55@msn.com

If you need assistance or have ticketing questions, please call 520-526-9304.

The event features signature soups, breads and desserts from area restaurants, bakeries and food partners, and you select a beautiful handcrafted pottery bowl to take home.



## ***Produce on Wheels (Without Waste)***

**Saturday, February 24th  
8:00 - 11:00 am in the  
parking lot.**

For a \$10.00 cash donation, you will get up to 60 lbs. of produce!

We also need volunteers to collect money and work the produce line.



**Volunteers get their produce free!**

Please contact Tricia at musicaloverlord@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering, donating or would like more information.



Automatic External Defibrillator's (AED's) are available in the lobbies of both the Celebration and Community Centers.

Please familiarize yourself with their locations because every second counts.

**You could save a life by learning CPR and how to use an AED!**

Watch a short 5 minute session - "How to Use the AED" at <https://youtu.be/6yDDh510QRo>



### **Refugee 101**

Thursday, February 8th,  
4:00 - 6:00 pm  
UA Downtown  
44 N. Stone Ave. Room #119

Learn more about the refugees we assist. Participate in an enriching setting to gain knowledge on the struggles and successes of a new American.

Please RSVP to 440-0100.



### **TIHAN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!**

TIHAN is looking for a Volunteer Maintenance Technician. Volunteer will assist and carry out minor repairs and maintain offices.

#### **Duties & Responsibilities:**

- \* Perform basic repairs for plumbing, electrical, appliances & equipment.
- \* Provide maintenance to building: painting, carpentry, grounds, cleanup, and new equipment installation.

If interested in this opportunity, please call the TIHAN Volunteer Coordinator at 299-6647, ext. 206 or email [volunteercoordinator@tihan.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@tihan.org)



### **From the Editor**

Hello Everyone!

I hope you've enjoyed this month's newsletter. I'm always on the lookout for articles that have to do with the people, ministries and activities of St.

Francis in the Foothills.

If you have something you'd like to share, please email your idea(s) to:

**[mmitchell@stfrancisumc.org](mailto:mmitchell@stfrancisumc.org)**

Please note that the cut-off date for accepting submissions for the March 2018 newsletter is Friday, February 16th.

Anything submitted after that date without prior communication may not be able to be included.



Join us for

### ***Spruce Up Day***

Saturday, March 10th,  
8:00 am - noon

It's spring cleaning time - indoors and out! Even if you can only spare an hour or two, we need your help!

For more information, or to sign up, contact Steve at [facilities@stfrancisumc.org](mailto:facilities@stfrancisumc.org) or call 299-9063.

Because I always have  
a choice, I choose love.

Deepak Chopra

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Newsletter Editor – Melissa Mitchell  
St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church  
(520)299-9063, Ext. 101