

The Spirit of St. Francis



2018



A Word from Our Pastor

Life Keeps Moving

It has been an interesting
summer for me -

marvelous, wondrous moments I will always
remember . . . and other equally unforgettable times
I wish I could have never gone through. Within an
hour of returning from an incredible vacation in
Hawaii, I received the news about my son's
accident and the times since has been focused on
his recovery.

I went on an incredible trip to the Refuge of Hope
with a group of people that got as much done as
any team I've ever taken to Peru. And in the middle
of that trip a four-month-old baby died changing the
complexion of the entire experience. I saw Pastor
Victor and the others in that remarkable place in a
whole new light.

All of those moments, and more, have pushed
themselves into my consciousness, vying for my
attention, time and energy . . . and threatened to
make me ignore some very important moments that
are ahead of us, moments that if we forget, will
change our world in ways that will not serve us well.
They are calling out for our input.

The signs on the side of the road and the television
commercials might have alerted you to the fact that
an election is ahead of us - actually two elections.



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**4625 E River Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85718
(520)299-9063**

www.stfrancisumc.org

**Sunday Services:
7:45 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am
in the Celebration Center**

**Adult Education: 10:30 am
in the Community Center**

NUMBERS TO KNOW
Sunday Bulletins
(520)299-9063, Ext. 105

Monthly Newsletter:
(520)299-9063, Ext. 101

Contribution/Pledge
Questions:
(520)299-9063. Ext.102

Prayer Requests:
(520)299-9063, Ext.101

Room Reservations:
(520)299-9063, Ext.101

On August 28, just about a month away, we hold primary elections in our state. Just over two months after that, on November 6, we hold the general elections. With the exception of John McCain's Senate seat, all of our state and national elected offices are up for election. What an amazing opportunity to change the course of Arizona, and possibly the United States, for the better!

In addition, there will be a number of ballot propositions up for our vote (at least 3 and possibly as many as seven). The one that is most interesting to me concerns funding for Arizona schools. Please look at them all and vote, vote, vote. Let your voice be heard.

To help in these efforts, your Financial Futures Team will be holding a series of lectures about the importance of politics in America and the incredible role that our church, St. Francis, has held in the past, and can hold in the present, as well as the future. These wonderful opportunities will be held throughout the month of October as we collectively and individually do our part to help our nation more forward.

But the United Methodist Church needs our attention at least as much. I am trying to finish this article so that I can leave to go to St. Louis for the Reconciling Convocation being held there this weekend. We are meeting in the same space where the UMC will hold our special General Conference in February which will focus on LGBTQ issues in the church. There is a good chance that the choices made at that conference will affect our church, both locally and nationally, in profound and long-lasting ways!

Next week, after I get home from this conference (which by the way is called *For Everyone Born* and is hosted by the Love Your Neighbor Coalition) we will need to begin the process of education and planning that will allow us to positively affect the decisions of that Special General Conference, so that, as a church and as individuals, we can truly live out the call to love, not just our neighbors, but everyone born.

There is wonderful work ahead of us. I am so proud to be the pastor of a community that embraces that work enthusiastically and energetically!

Jim

International School for Peace
(520)299-8908

FOR PASTORAL HELP

Reverend Jim Wiltbank
(520)299-9063, Ext. 106



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



- 1 Patty Black
- 1 Nancy Masland
- 1 Kitt Farrell-Poe
- 4 Bill Carlson
- 5 Jayne Wilson
- 6 Bill Brantley
- 6 Karen Bliss
- 7 Tom Neiburger



Prison Reform at St. Francis

The Prison Reform Sub-Committee of the Outreach Committee is excited about being an initiator of the newly formed group called "Faith Community Connections". We are a collaboration of four churches and people released from prison, in transition housing at Old Pueblo Community Services, to volunteer for non-profits. We call ourselves "Faith Community Connections." So far we have had two successful volunteer works days at Habitat for Humanity and Community Food Bank.

We have another team day planned at Community Food Bank August 8 and are recruiting
those interested in this exciting new project.

We will meet at Community Food Bank at **8:30 am** and work until noon. It isn't necessary that you work the entire day, just that you be there at 8:30 to begin together. It is a most rewarding experience and encourages our returning citizens to give back to the community - a community that welcomes their contributions.

Life changing for us all!

Interested? Contact Diane Wilson at dlsWilson57@gmail.com to register for this volunteer experience and join us August 8.

8 Daniel Kayhart
8 Evan Barron-Gafford
8 Barbara Fredricks
12 John Eldred
13 Casey Leavenworth-Keenberg
14 Chris Kemp
16 Linda Meade-Tollin
16 David Wilson
16 Sara Rohde
18 Shannon Sullivan
19 Nancy Wilkinson
20 Christine Kayhart
20 Abby Jensen
20 Olive Meyer
21 Kit Bornstein
22 Amy Brauer
22 Joe White
25 Robyn Moreland
25 Tim Kasting
27 Nina Vincent
27 Sally Danielson
28 Diana Holan
28 Dave Diedrick
31 John Everhart

MARK YOUR OCTOBER CALENDARS NOW!



A Conspiracy of Hope: Reclaiming Our Public Square

St. Francis Celebration Center
Saturday, October 6th, 4:30 pm
Saturday, October 13th, 4:30 pm
Saturday, October 20th, 4:30 pm

and a final Celebration of Hope
on Friday, November 2nd
at 6:00 pm.

Join us for three thought-provoking lectures of the state of our politics and a celebration of our democracy.

More details to come!

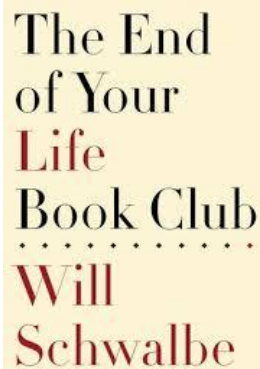
Library News



Recommended Reads

The End of Your Life Book Club by Will Schwalbe

During her treatment for cancer, Mary Anne Schwalbe and her son Will spent many hours sitting in waiting rooms together. To pass the time, they would talk about the books they were reading. Once, by chance, they read the same book at the same time - and an informal book club of two was born. Through their wide-ranging reading, Will and Mary Anne-and we, their fellow readers-are reminded how books can be comforting, astonishing, and illuminating, changing the way that we feel about and interact with the world around us. A profoundly moving memoir of caregiving, mourning, and love-
The End of Your Life Book Club is also about the joy of reading, and the ways that joy is multiplied when we share it with others.



***Pick out some movies from our awesome selection of DVD's!**

***Got a long a commute, or perhaps are going on a driving trip? We've got a great selection of audiobooks to keep you company!**

The *Library for Peace* is open
Sunday mornings from 9:00 - 12:30 pm

Check us out - literally!



Weekly Breakfasts



Sophia's Circle Women's Group

Wednesdays, 6:45 - 7:30 am
Ravenscroft Hall



Chrysalis Men's Round Table

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

**Newcomers are
always welcome!**

Exploring Our Differences

TOGETHER

Come join our

Joy and Wisdom Discussion Group

meeting on the 1st and 3rd
Fridays of every month
at 1:00 pm in Room 50.

We discuss many different topics,
from books by progressive
Christian authors to DVD
programs and much more.

For more information, contact
Joyce at 404-1691.

Spirit Stories

The spirit stories we are requesting are those gifts of grace that happen in all of our lives. Sharing our stories acknowledges that we are paying attention, and that we are grateful for these blessings. Reading others' stories raises our awareness of the continual working of Spirit in our midst. We welcome contributions from anyone of any age. Authors can choose to remain anonymous. Please email your story to aliceweekley@gmail.com. If you would prefer to dictate your story to her, you can call Alice at 520-292-8799. -- The Inspiration Team

Last Sunday I started to cry at the closing song and realized I had been feeling sad. As I thought (and prayed), I decided it was normal grief from friends Asgard and Freia (Norwegian elk hounds) moving out of town. We used to see each other daily so I received lots of affection from them. Freia never got enough petting. I visited them for extended periods on Mondays and Thursdays. Their owner had enriched my life as well with books he bought me and nutritional advice he offered.

Thursday I was walking in McCormick Park and came upon a man with two male yellow labs. One sat down in front of me for petting. I had that warm feeling once more. I asked if I could have visiting privileges. Their owner said "yes." I gave him my business card and he gave me his. I recognized his name. He was someone I had telephoned to wish a Happy Birthday . . . someone listed in a previous St. Francis Newsletter. I remembered feeling proud of myself for calling a person I could not picture in my mind. He recognized my name from that encounter also.

This, I believe, was not of random design, but Spirit working in our lives.

- Judith Holt



Elder Circle . . . The Wisdom Journey

Friday, August 10th,
10:00 am in Ravenscroft Hall

Join us for discussion on living,
dying and our legacies.

**Newcomers are always
welcome!**



**We need volunteers to
provide transportation,
companionship, food, and
contact to members of our
congregation who need help.**

Please help us grow in number
and strength so that we can
adequately care for our
congregation.

If you can spare a few hours
during the week, please contact
Karen Bauder at 299-9063.



Refugee 101: Info Night

Monday, August 27th,
5:00 - 7:00 pm

Habitat for Humanity
3501 N. Mountain Ave.

Gain knowledge about the
struggles and successes of new
Americans.



Pride Is Everywhere!

by Diane Wilson

John and I were in Chicago to visit our granddaughter when we discovered we were there for the Pride Parade which came down the street where we were staying. It was a wonderful experience to see people celebrating who they are, along with us bystanders shouting support. Men, women, children, politicians, wheelchairs, motorcycles, floats - all reigned on Diversy Avenue. And some churches joined in and announced their support - Methodists, Episcopalians (including a bishop of the church), United Church of Christ, Lutherans, Presbyterians all affirmed support of inclusion.



Frankly, I was moved to tears because I remember growing up in a time when being gay was anathema and exclusion prevailed. Now, knowing as I do, many LGBT loving couples who exemplify the best of partnership, marriage and commitment to family, I thank God for the chance for all of us to be whole and to be loved for that. And for us to have an opportunity to know each other more fully and celebrate.

*Who is a Refugee, Asylee or an Immigrant?

*Why do these people help the U.S. and actually strengthen our country's security?

*How do you welcome a refugee family into your neighborhood?

Please RSVP to 440-0100.

From the Editor



Dear Reader,

I hope you've enjoyed this month's newsletter. I'm always interested in submissions that have to do with the people, ministries, and activities of St. Francis. If you have something you'd like to share, please email your ideas to:

mmitchell@stfrancisumc.org

Please be aware that the cut-off date for accepting articles and photographs for the September 2018 newsletter is Friday, August 17th.

Anything submitted after that date, and without prior communication may not be included.