



The Spirit of St. Francis

NOVEMBER
2018

**WOOOHOO WE DID IT
THANK YOU
EVERYONE!**

Text by Melissa Mitchell
Photographs by James F. Palka
& Marilyn Keefer

It started with an email back in July and turned into one of the biggest and best community events St. Francis has ever put on.

Howlapalooza 2018 was definitive St. Francis - with people coming together to help run games,

*Choose
Love*

In This Issue

Howlapalooza Madness!

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St. Francis Yard Sale

True Concord Comes to St. Francis!

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

www.stfrancisumc.org

cook at the Food Court, decorate their cars, not to mention donating gift cards for food and decorations, and baked goods for the Bake Sale & Cake Walk.



By 5:45 pm, all the cars were decorated and in place for Trunk or Treat.



Games were ready to go and volunteers were receiving last-minute instructions as the smell of cooking hamburgers and hotdogs filled the air. People were already starting to arrive with their kids who were straining at the bit to get into the empty Bounce House! And soon, *Howlapalooza 2018* was underway!



L-R: Ray Sparks, Sue Gemoets and Ted Gemoets prepare the Food Court.

SUNDAY SERVICES:
7:45, 9:00 & 10:45 AM
IN THE CELEBRATION CENTER

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES:
10:30 AM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER

NUMBERS TO KNOW

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

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

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

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

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

International School for Peace
(520)299-8908

FOR PASTORAL HELP

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



Shannon Sullivan
readies the Tattoo
table!



Church Administrator
attacked by zombie
(Judi West). Fights
her off with cake!



L-R: Library for Peace volunteers
Becky Wilson, Ginny Jones and
Martha Pankratz enjoyed overseeing
the "Monster Mash" Pinata booth.



Facilities Coordinator Steve Barclay pauses to
grab "a bite"!



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



Dan Meyer ran the Bake Sale table where his "fang-tastic" pumpkin pies were a favorite!



As was the "Monster Mash" Pinata Party sponsored and run by the Library for Peace.



And of course the "Fishing Game"!



- 1 Eric Ordaz
- 2 Joanne Roit
- 3 Alan Leonard
- 3 Ronald Nason
- 3 Adrienne Smith
- 4 Stephen Moore
- 4 Shane Vincent
- 4 Rebecca Redelsheimer
- 4 Stuart Salvatierra
- 5 Sean Murray
- 8 Manny Leon
- 9 Grace Corneliussen
- 9 Zachary Corneliussen
- 11 Lauren Guth
- 12 Joan Curry
- 12 Joey Huth
- 13 Douglas Kayhart
- 13 Eric Schilling
- 14 Cole Dearmon-Moore
- 12 Devi Dearmon Moore
- 14 Donald Black
- 15 E. Reid Gilbert
- 15 Inna Lehrer
- 16 Judy Mitchell
- 18 Kelsey Ageton
- 20 Scott Blades
- 22 Denise Teague
- 24 Bonnie Colby
- 24 Lydia Hamstra
- 25 Kay Bauman
- 27 Carolyn Rivers
- 27 Charles Adams
- 28 Richard Ostroski
- 28 Sydney Warner
- 29 Nancy Kayhart
- 29 Laura Marble
- 30 Donna Downey
- 30 Stephanie Parker
- 30 Stephanie Poe
- 30 Arnold Cohen
- 30 Ademar Leiva



From 6-9 pm the air was filled with the sounds of laughter, and squeals of happy children jumping in the Bounce House and winning at the games.

To the St. Francis staff who were pretty much "drafted" into helping with this - thank you! Your enthusiasm and creativity made this not only a great event, but fun to plan and put together as well.

To all the volunteers who gave up their Friday evening to help out, we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you doesn't begin to express how grateful we are.

And the same goes to all those who gave so generously to help us purchase the needed food, candy, prizes and decorations. Together our efforts created many smiles, a lot of laughter, and a safe, happy space for Halloween.

A Word from Our Pastor

Still Busy

I write this as I sit in the waiting period leading up to election day. Write-in ballots are in or, at least, decisions have been made in such a way that the ceaseless onslaught of the political TV ads can be ignored. My hopes are clear, both in what I want to have happen, and in the ways



Got too much stuff?



Then join us for the

St. Francis Community Yard Sale

Saturday, November 10th,
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

This is the perfect way to get rid of accumulated items and make a little extra money for Christmas! And you can do it in the company of your St. Francis friends!

So far we have 30 tables of treasures,
plus a Food Court with 1/4 lb.
hamburgers and hot dogs!
It's not too late to sign up!

It will work like a swap meet: St. Francis will provide the space and rent tables for you to display your items, plus folding chairs to relax in. (All money raised through the rental of tables will go to benefit the church!)

As the seller, you are responsible for:

- *Transporting your items to St. Francis.
- *Pricing and displaying them in your space.
- *Bringing change for your transactions and handling all transactions.
- *Removing all unsold items from the St. Francis campus when the sale is over.

that they do not align perfectly with everyone I know.

Which brings me to the one surety I know about elections: whether the decisions come out exactly the way I thought they would, or take the form of my worst nightmare, the work is not done.

There will still be issues that need solving. There will still be elected officials that need to hear us. There will still be unresolved conflict and challenging obstacles.

And there will still be St. Franciscans willing to step once more into the fray!

Our PCIC core team will still be visiting the legislature and affecting public policy.

Our Outreach team will be hard at work dealing with the many ways problems are still present.

Our Reconciling team will still be seeking equality and justice.

Our Mental Health team will be raising awareness and seeking solutions.

Please connect with any of these teams, or, frankly, any of our ministry areas, to find a way to voice your concern and get involved. Our Nominations team will be working over the next couple months to place people in the teams that match whichever areas of concern they have. Please contact me if you are not sure where your issues can be addressed, and your energy used.

St Francis is wonderful because you are involved!

Jim

**Tables rent for \$10.00 each
(Maximum of 3 tables).**

To reserve your space and tables, please contact the Church Office at 299-9063.



Exploring Membership Retreat

Saturday, November 17th

8:30 am - 2:00 pm

in the Celebration Center

A light lunch will be served.

This is a wonderful opportunity, without pressure or commitment, to familiarize yourself with the people and the mission of

St. Francis in the Foothills.

You will hear from and be able to ask questions of our pastor and members of our many Ministry Teams.

Please RSVP by October 31st.

For more information, please contact Nancy Stevenson at 323-0318 or Diane Everhart at 272-2341.

Library News



New Arrivals

Hygge: The Danish Art of Happiness by Marie Tourell Soderberg.

Beyond the Wall: Essays from the Outside by Edward Abbey -

A Dream Unfolding: A History presentation of the Methodist movement in Arizona, southern Nevada, and southeastern California now known as The Desert Southwest Conference by Harold Byrn.

Jesus' Plan for a New World: The Sermon on the Mount by Richard Rohr.

The Historical Jesus: The Life of a Mediterranean Jewish Peasant by John Dominic Crossan.

The Complete Works of LaoTzu: translation by Hua-Ching Ni.

Come check us out - literally!

We're open on Sundays until 12:30 pm and located in the church office building.

Check out our new online catalog!

Stop by our table on Sundays outside the Celebration Center! .



**Saturday, November 17th,
8:00 am - noon**

Come for the morning or even just a few hours. Any time you can give will be gratefully accepted!

Breakfast goodies and coffee and tea will be provided.

To volunteer, please contact Steve at 299-9063 or email facilities@stfrancisumc.org



Refugee 101: Info Night

Tuesday, November 27th,
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Murphy Wilmot Library
530 N. Wilmot Rd.

Please RSVP to 440-0100.

St. Francis Concert Series presents



***Holiday Joy with
Lisa Otey & Diane Van Deurzen***

Friday, November 30th
7:00 pm in the Celebration Center



Thanksgiving and the holidays in general usually stand out as a season of plenty - even excess. So sometimes it's hard to conceive of the fact that people in our own community, many of them **children and senior citizens, won't have enough to eat.**

For the month of November, we are asking - in addition to our usual Food Pantry needs - for donations of holiday foods and treats. It truly is a time to be reminded of all we have, of our many blessings - even when things seem bleak - and that we are all connected.

Holiday Treat Suggestions:

- *Boxed or Bagged Stuffing mix
- *Canned Yams
- *Boxed Potatoes (Mashed, Scalloped)
- *Boxed Baking Goods (Cake mixes, cookie mixes, pie crust mix, brownies)
- *Cans or jars of gravy (Turkey, chicken)
- *Cans of fruit filling for pies (Apple, Cherry, etc.)
- *Canned vegetables (Green Beans, Corn, Peas)

If you can't bring in donations of non-perishable food, how about stopping by the Scrip table on Sunday mornings and purchasing grocery cards to donate to the Food Pantry? That way we can fill our shelves with what we need, and St. Francis will receive a rebate from your purchase.

As always, thank you for your generosity.

Tickets: \$15.00 General Admission
(plus service fee)

Kick off the holidays with Lisa and Diane as they sing all your holiday favorites!

**To purchase tickets,
call (520) 329-2910 or go to
www.stfrancisumc.org/special-events**



***Handel's Messiah,
"Hallelujah Chorus"*
Performed by True Concord**

Sunday, December 9, 2018
3:00 pm in the Celebration Center

Tickets: \$25 General Admission
\$35 Premium (First Two Rows)
plus service fee

Grammy-nominated *True Concord Voices & Orchestra* presents the Christmas portion and "Hallelujah Chorus" of Handel's beloved *Messiah* in a one-hour performance that is sure to be a highlight of your holiday season. Handel's masterpiece has become a celebrated December tradition in this country and beyond, and this performance marks *True Concord's* not-to-be-missed debut at St. Francis!

**To purchase tickets,
call (520) 329-2910 or go to
www.stfrancisumc.org/special-events**





Endowment Fund News

The St. Francis Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to announce that two grants of up to \$500 each were approved for the following:

Mission - TIHAN/Karen Sparks, Barbara Eiswerth - assist with scholarships for adults with HIV/AIDS to attend weekend retreat "Strength for the Journey" at Mingus Camp.

Property - Facilities/Art Evans - to help pay for repairs in the Community Center.

The Endowment Fund Committee supports the needs of St. Francis by distributing earnings from our account with the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation. The principle (the original gifts and bequests) remains in the Fund and is invested to produce a return that is available annually. Applications for financial support within the congregation or outreach in the community will be accepted twice a year. The next deadline for applications will be April 15, 2019. Applications will be made available in March 2019.

Endowment Committee Members: Karen Bliss (Chair), Jim Wiltbank, Chuck Adams, George Daranyi, David Daniell, Linda VanPelt.

For more information, go to
www.stfrancisumc.org/giving



Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 16th,
5:00 pm in the
Community Center

For anyone with grief recent or old;
With loss of any kind.

Everyone is welcome.
Refreshments afterward.

**If you need childcare,
please contact the church office
at 299-9063 by December 12th.**



Elder Circle . . .

The Wisdom Journey.
A safe, respectful place
to harvest your life

**Friday, November 9th
10:00 - 11:30 am
in Ravenscroft Hall**

Elder Circles is a project of the
Center for Community Dialogue,
Our Family Services.

There are five components to our Elder
Circle journey:

life review, life repair, my legacy, facing up to
my mortality, mentoring.
Monthly topics cover new beginnings, leaving
a legacy, and end-of-life planning.

Newcomers are always welcome!



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

A Compassionate Response to HIV/AIDS

It's Our Turn!

Every month, St. Francis hosts TIHAN's POZ Café luncheon, providing the space and custodial support free of charge.

November is St. Francis' turn to co-host with two other local churches & share the cost & workload.

Our commitments to provide for Care Packages are:

- Toilet paper (170 rolls)
- Deodorant for men (45)
- Deodorant for women (45)
- Raffle prizes (5) GIFT CARDS

Please drop off your heartfelt contribution at the TIHAN table at Coffee Fellowship on Sundays.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Sparks at raykaren55@msn.com.

**Our last volunteer orientation of 2018 is
November 13th from 12:30 - 4:30 pm.
Please join us!**

It's not too late to sign up!
We have volunteer opportunities for
administrative and support service roles:

You can find a complete list of our current
volunteer openings by going to TIHAN.org and
clicking on "Volunteer", then on "Volunteer
Opportunities". One of them might be just right
for you!

For more information, or to sign up,
contact TIHAN at 299-6647 or email
VolunteerCoordinator@tihan.org



Since 1985 Interfaith Community Services has been creating connections between faith communities and volunteers to serve seniors, disabled persons and individuals in financial crisis.

VOLUNTEER

The holidays are coming. Do you have time to give as an ICS volunteer? Go online at www.icstucson.org and click on the Volunteer tab to find out more. Or email Volunteer Resources Manager Tori Carlson at tcarlson@icstucson.org or call 526-9308.

PLAY IT FORWARD GOLF WEEKEND!

Whether you want to play traditional golf at the *We Care Golf Classic* on Friday, November 9th at the beautiful Omni Tucson National Resort, or enjoy one of Tucson's newest attractions, Topgolf, for a friendly tournament on Sunday, November 11th, we hope you will join us for the Inaugural ICS *Play It Forward Golf Weekend!*

Support us in our mission of bringing help and hope to neighbors in need. You support changes lives!

For ticket information and to sign up your teams, please visit our website www.icstucson.org. Sponsorships are available.

Call Deborah Carr at 526-9310.

Spirit Stories

HOW DOES SPIRIT WORK IN YOUR LIFE?

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. This month's spirit story follows:

Hummingbirds came and went as Mary and I watched them feeding. We noticed one perched but motionless, its long beak pointed straight up. About every five minutes it lowered its beak into the feeder but didn't seem to be drinking.

Afraid he couldn't get water, I filled a rubber squeeze bulb with sugar water and pressed the water drop at the end of the bulb into the tip of his beak. I did this several times. Perched only inches away, the hummingbird seemed unaware of me.

The bird's chest rose and fell, his beak opened and closed as his tongue went in and out, yet he seemed unable to drink. I watched him become less and less able to remain upright, at times nearly falling off the perch, only to quickly recover his strength and balance.

Slowly he collapsed on the feeder shelf . . . head resting on the perch bar. His eyes gradually opened less and less and then remained closed.



Do you have what it takes?

Here's a little test:

- *Do you feel like you are
COMPASSIONATE?
Yes No
- *Do you **LIKE PEOPLE?**
Yes No
- *Are you a **GOOD LISTENER?**
Yes No
- *Can you
KEEP A
CONFIDENCE? Yes
No
- *Do people
LIKE TO TALK TO
YOU? Yes No
- *Do you have an hour a week **to**
make this a better
world? Yes No

Scoring: Lots of yes answers?
You'd probably make a great Stephen Minister! Let's talk!

A comprehensive county-wide training for NEW Stephen Ministers will start in January 2019.

Our St. Francis program is now taking applications for that training.

Be a positive influence in someone's life!
The rewards are immeasurable!
For questions or more information; call
Joyce Leissring 520-404-1691

One and a half hours had passed since we first noticed him and now the only motion was the rhythmic in and out of the rust speckled breast. A great sadness and sense of loss passed over me. I recalled my family at my dying mother's bedside singing "If You Get to Heaven Before I Do." I was told that hearing is the last to go. So I began to whistle softly and hum, my mouth inches away from my little friend. I thought perhaps this would ease his passing and my sadness.

About five minutes after I began whistling and humming, the right eye blinked. One blink was followed by several more until the eye stayed open. The needle-thin tongue, hanging lifeless out of the long beak suddenly disappeared. The beak that had barely opened a crack opened wider and more frequently in rhythm with the rising and falling of his chest. The head came up off the perch, the right wing twitched and opened. The tail feathers opened and closed a few times. All within two or three minutes. Then suddenly he flew . . . inches from my startled face . . . and I watched as my winged friend darted off to alight on a small Palo Verde branch about 30 feet away.

- Ted Waldron

Happy
Thanksgiving

From the Editor



Dear Reader,

I hope you've enjoyed this month's newsletter. 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 December 2018/January 2019 issue is Friday, November 16th.

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



EVERYONE comes to St. Francis - and all are welcome!
(Photo by Tom Neiburger)