

THE MESSENGER

AUGUST 2018

THE MISSION OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ANGLICAN CHURCH IS TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST THROUGH SERIOUS DISCIPLESHIP, SACRED WORSHIP AND SELFLESS SERVICE

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Saying Thank You and Goodbye

My *Interim Ministry* at St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church, from July 2014 to August 2018, officially ends on September 1, 2018. This is the ministry that took place in the parish/mission following the leaving of the past rector/vicar and the coming of the new rector/vicar.

It is my distinct privilege to exercise two interim ministries in this Church which coincided with the two critical transition periods. I was your Interim Rector: from Fr. Martins to Fr. Lee coinciding with the transition period from St. John Episcopal Church to St. John Anglican Church. I will soon be your Interim Vicar: from Fr. Rudell to Fr. Drake coinciding with the transition period from St. John Anglican Church to St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church.

Allow me to share my reflections on this latter interim ministry and transition as my way of saying thank you and goodbye to you all, and welcome to Fr. Joshua Drake.

Four years ago, when the Bishop called me to come to St. Francis, he asked me to commit specifically to these priority areas: (a) preaching and teaching the Word and living it, (b) pastoral care of the church leaders (who are tired and overworked) and the general church community that is hurt, divided and fearful, (c) raise and enable Church leadership by laying a firm foundation so that it will be excited to go forward into the future.

Without hesitation I can say that I have tried to do my best in these areas and more.

(a) My sermons and my teachings may not be all that great and interesting, but I assure you they had been prepared and reflected on.

(b) My notes, my text messages, my calls, conversations and visits, attendance at or call for group meetings with prayers and sacraments when called for, are my simple pastoral caring ways. I tried to be always present in your times of needs and difficulties: in the Church, in the hospitals, in care facilities or in your homes.

(c) As far as the pastoral care of the church leaders and the healing of the community – and the equipping of the leadership to face a bright future: allow me to quote what somebody wrote to me:

“You were sent to us by our Bishop to be a stable and healing presence when we had just lost a priest (Fr Nelson) and our building and the difficult 6-month trial presence of Fr Rudell.

You knew us and we knew you. You were that stability and healing that we needed. God was instrumental in having you be available and choosing to come to St Francis.

Look how we have healed. It seems that during communion ALL people are putting their hands on the next person in line. This is awesome! What a family we have become.

Look at the giving: we made budget without dipping into savings to pay double rent. Just look at our new location, the giving that went into making it St Francis Church was overwhelming!

See the healing of leadership and the Bishop's Committee to take a leap of faith and even consider and make a decision to contract into a lease for 5 years that doubled our rent.

Jeff has just blossomed even more with the responsibilities and confidence you have had in him.

None of this could have happened without God's intervention and blessing and you to help us heal. We were very broken, those of us in leadership felt like we had been to hell and back.

Know also that you were there when we needed you most. You healed us, Fr. Thank you for that! Stand up and take some glory for that!! And allow us to give you that glory!! Well done good and faithful servant!!”

In my own little family with Ruth, Honey and John: the time has come for us parents to let go of our children into the future. Like you parents, we are sad to let go; but we are hopeful that we have helped prepare them for the future. We will always be their parents and they will always be our children.

The same is true at St. Francis: I will always be Fr. Woodrow Gubuan to you. But of course, it is not about letting go. It is about hoping that I have helped you to move forward. Just looking at all of you, I am very confident that the future is very bright. You have become and continue to become a cohesive, loving, and compassionate family. You are doctrinally sound, spiritually and liturgically founded on classical Anglicanism. Above all you are a merciful and compassionate church family so worthy of our patron St. Francis. Practically everyone plays a crucial role in the life and ministry of St. Francis Church – and you play it well.

If I am very hopeful of your future, it is because this is one Church family that is so rich in personal and Christian resources. If I am very thankful, it is because I had the privilege of having been a part your life. Let us pray for Fr. Drake that the Lord has chosen for us. Let us pray that we will move on with him with confidence and enthusiasm. Let us pray that together with him, we will grow and flourish.

And pray for me also and my family as I will always pray for all of you.

Thank you and goodbye!

Fr. Woodrow Gubuan

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Hello,

As Christians we are often called closed minded, that Christians only have one view. That we don't believe in science, that the Bible is all there is and we have superstitions to fill in the blanks of our knowledge. One of the arguments the atheist makes, is that we discard science and only have one view, and that is of the Bible, again that we are close minded not seeking the truth of science.

We as Christians regard science as a way to show the greatness of God. Most atheist don't realize, that it was Christians that started many universities. And that we Christians balance the Bible with science. That is both that give us the complete view of how things are

as they are. The Bible tells who brought things into existence and science tells us how He orders things to work. In fact we believe that science helps give us more insight to God and His omnipotent power. We believe that science shows us the depth of God by showing us the expanse of the universe. And the Bible not only gives us insight to who God is personally but what He asks of us and His love for us.

In fact it is the other way around. Atheist are the ones who hold to a single view and that view is science. That science is all there is, there is nothing beyond science. If science can't prove it, it doesn't exist. The material world is all there is. There is nothing beyond the material. They seem to overlook the fact that science has proven that the universe had a beginning out of nothing. They are the ones who are trying to plug in theories to explain the beginning of the universe. And they forget that the methods they use to come up with these theories is not material. Reason, laws, ideas, and yes they can translate to the material world but they themselves are immaterial.

We as Christians need to become more familiar with this kind of thinking and have answers for them. I have talked about Frank Turek before. I think it would be a good idea if you could go see him in person to see some of his material, but also how he handles questions afterwards. Well, on Saturday August 25th from 6-9PM Frank Turek is speaking at Valley Church in Cupertino Ca. I think it would be a great idea for St. Francis to get together and carpool to go see him. Not only would it be a great time to spend with each other, it is a great opportunity to see someone speak on apologetics. I plan to go and if I'm not in L.A. with my nephew and his wife when they are having their baby, I will go! But it all depends on when the baby comes, he is due on Aug 23rd. But that doesn't mean that several of you cannot get together and carpool in several cars and go! It might be an opportunity to go as a congregation, to not only support someone who is teaching apologetics, but maybe to spend time outside of church. Perhaps over a great meal as well? And who knows, you might learn something! I will be talking about this over the next several weeks to encourage you to go.

May the Peace of the Lord be always with You!

Deacon Jeff Stugelmeyer

Sacred Worship



<u>Sundays</u>	
9:30am	St Francis of Assisi
<u>1st Friday of the Month</u>	
12noon	Healing Service
<u>1st Saturday of the Month</u>	
9:30am	Holy Eucharist



St Francis Church offers a healing service on the First Friday of every month at 12noon. August 3th will be the service in August.

Holy Communion on the First Saturday of each month at 9:30am

An opportunity to gather and praise God before we “Go and Make Disciples” in the different food ministries St Francis offers in our community.



Taizé: Joining Our Praises with St. Mary the Virgin

By Gigi Kemalyan

On Wednesday, August 15th at 7:00 p.m. we will gather for our next monthly Taizé prayer service. If you've never joined us, I encourage you to "come and see" what a sung prayer service is like. Even if you think you can't sing, come anyway, and bring a friend! There is nothing quite like focused communal prayer in song and silence. You can really sense the Spirit's presence and your heart will be lifted.

August 15th is the Feast Day of St. Mary the Virgin, and the Anglican Lectionary reading for that evening comes from John 12, where Jesus foretells His Crucifixion. During the first half of the service we focus on thanksgiving and adoration of the Lord; join in a *Magnificat* that honors Mary's special place in the Church; and sing John the Baptist's call

from Isaiah to "prepare the way of the Lord." The evening's Scripture reading is followed by a haunting Byzantine antiphon that meditates on the Passion of Christ; and a plea for Jesus to remember us in Paradise. The second half of the service represents our confessions and petitions and has the usual pattern of intercessions, the Lord's Prayer, and various prayer chants.

This month we bring back the Orthodox chant "Let My Prayer Arise" based on Psalm 141; and we will sing a beautiful new *Trisagion* ("Thrice Holy"). If you want to learn the melody before August 15th, you can listen to a recording here: <https://bit.ly/2N2jTDF>. Or go to YouTube and search for "Trisagion hymn in English Apostolos Hill" and it will be at the top of the search results. (We will only sing the English portion, not the Greek.)

There is much beautiful music to sing to our Lord—and "he who sings prays twice!" Come and be doubly blessed by joining your voice with ours on August 15th at 7:00 p.m. God will meet you in the songs and in the silence.

Our Diocese of San Joaquin Website:
<http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/>
Diocesan Newsletter:
<http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/san-joaquin-anglican.html>



Child Care is available each Sunday @ 9am. Ask an Usher for Help

**Arts & Crafts
Mini-Retreat for Adults**
Is on break during the summer.



Serious Discipleship



Do You Play Bridge?

Or would you like to learn?

Marvin Lykins, Valerie Nolan and Susan Sperry are looking for bridge partners. If we can find one more player, we can have a bridge day at St Francis. If you're interested, please let the church office know!

The ACTS class is still in progress at 8:30am on Sundays. It is not too late to join. Lots of good discussions!! See Deacon Jeff for more info.



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study beginning 29 August at 9:45am.

Our study is entitled Wonderstruck and will be the same format as before with a video session and workbook. This study is presented by Margaret Feinberg. She has been named as one of the most influential women in Christian life today. Margaret teaches from a point of wonder of the Creator mingled with some engaging humor. The sessions were filmed in the grand Canadian Rockies. The visuals will truly leave you "Wonderstruck".

Margaret is the child of a Jewish father (who was recently inducted into the Surfer's Hall of Fame!) and mother who earned her captain's license to pilot 60 ton ships. She began her adult life hoping to go to Georgetown University to study prelaw. She was rejected, because God has other plans. She, instead, attended Wake Forest and in her own words partied like a rock star during her freshman year. Someone invited her to a Christian

conference where she encountered God which literally changed her life. Isaiah 43:1 continually drew her to the Lord. Her major changed to religious studies and after graduation joined her classmates in an overseas mission, because she thought that was expected.

Through some difficult circumstances which Margaret turns into humorous stories, she clearly knew this was not her purpose for God's Kingdom. Margaret is adamant that scripture should be the basis for our lives and that we line up all of our plans with God's Word. As she studied the 21st chapter of John, the Lord led her to know that "Whatever calling someone else may have, my calling is to press my nose between His shoulder blades and follow where He leads."

The Lord gave Margaret the gift of communication. Through her books and Bible studies she has reached many in His Name. Please join us as we study with Margaret, Wonderstruck, and be inspired by God's Word. As Christians in an ever changing and chaotic world we are called to immerse ourselves in God's Word and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in every way.

Please pray about joining us and bringing a friend. The cost for the workbook is \$12.99. There are some used copies available on Amazon that are very inexpensive. Let Lorraine know if you need help ordering. Her email: bppcooks@comcast.net

Daily opportunities to read/hear the Word:



<http://legereme.com/office>

<http://www.missionstclare.com/english/>

<https://first5.org/>

Selfless Service



Daughters: **August 11th @10am**
 Choir: Upcoming Rehearsals: **August 5th**
 Coffee Hour Hosts: See Cat Rhodes
 Taizé: **August 15th @ 7pm**
 Bishop's Committee Meeting: **August 26th**

Other Ministry Opportunities

Acolyte - Lector - Prayer Team
 Collection Counter - Hospitality
 Usher - Homebound Ministry
 Senior Ministry
 Serving on the 1st Sat of the Month



Don't forget to sign the cards on the table in the fellowship hall for our homebound and sick. They are so appreciative to hear from their friends at St Francis Church.



August

10th Lydia - Peggy Tobias
 31st Dan - Rose & Roberta
 Pacita - Remy & Isabel



August

1st Mr & Mrs Steve Olmsted
 9th Mr & Mrs Mike Finney
 12th Mr & Mrs Wilson Melchor
 18th Mr & Mrs Claude Smart
 21st Mr & Mrs Jim Thompson
 28th Mr & Mrs Terry Beth
 31st Mr & Mrs Gary Crowder



August

1st Gracy Emmatty
 4th Joe Dietrich
 14th Denis Ceballos
 16th Lee Atwater
 22nd Mike Finney
 23rd Gigi Kemalyan
 24th David Lind
 26th Barbara Moeckel
 31st Serina Bogan

Homeless Women's Ministry

**1st Saturday of Each Month
 after the 9:30am Service**

On the first Saturday of July, St. Francis Church distributed over 30 bags of toiletries to the homeless women of Stockton. Items of clothing, shoes and children's toys were also gratefully received.

Our supplies are running low and we are asking for donations. Our goal is to assemble and distribute 24 bags of toiletries the first Saturday of each month.

Women's and children's clothing and shoes are also needed.

Thank you for supporting a worthwhile cause.

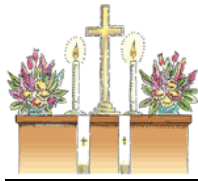
Cat Vaughn



Feeding the Homeless on the First Saturday of every month at 11:30am



Come to Movie Night at
St Francis Church on
Friday, August 3rd at
7:30pm. We will be showing
God's Not Dead.



July Altar Flower Donations

Lisa & Ted Yumoto in thanksgiving for Mrs Yumoto's birthday.

Liz Haines in memory of her husband, Dick.

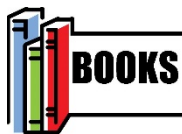
Jessica Aaron in memory of Helen Nicolson.

Isabel Johnson in memory of her friend, Phillip.

Jerry & Samantha Towne in thanksgiving for their wedding anniversary.

Lisa & Ted Yumoto in thanksgiving for Nick's birthday.

Lisa & Ted Yumoto in thanksgiving for Jillian's birthday.



St Francis Church
Lending Library

Take a look at our books
in the Fellowship Hall.

You may purchase or borrow and return the
books on the bookshelves.

It is all on the honor system.

Lots of good resources.

Hospitality is Thankful

Our coffee hour fellowship is really a joyful tradition! Thank you to all of you for your monetary contributions to the coffee hour basket, as well as the delicious treats you provide. Many thanks to Isabel Johnson and Valerie Nolan for their selfless service, and thank you Rose Beth for those Sunday surprises.



Saturday, August 25 from 6-9pm.
Valley Church, 10885 N Stelling Rd,
Cupertino, CA 95014

Join host, Valley Church, to learn from distinguished guest speakers, Dr. Frank Turek and Neil Mammen, instructors from crossexamined.org on four pertinent topics during a free evening seminar. There is a Q&A session after each topic.

1 - How to Answer the Objection: "There are Errors in the Bible"

Skeptics think that if they can find an error in the Bible that Christianity is false. Is that true? What should you say to people who think they've found an error in the Bible? The response may surprise you.

2 - Top 10 Questions You Should Ask Your Non-Christian Friends

Too often we are at a loss for what to say to our non-Christian friends. No more. Whether the subject is Christianity or some controversial cultural issue, now you'll know how to respond with questions that can move your friends closer to the truth.

3 - Legislation, Love, and the Law of God

What is the 2nd greatest commandment? What is our biblical duty to social injustice? What is true social justice?

4 - Why Everyone Discriminates

Our culture tells us that all discrimination is bad. But the truth is everyone discriminates. In fact, your destiny and mine will be determined by how well we discriminate, not just between right and wrong, but between temporal loves and eternal loves. Subtopics include: What is discrimination? What is love? Why are you here? What were you made for?

If you would like to carpool, call the church office – 565-0648

Dear Friends of St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church:

Our search for the next Vicar of St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church in Stockton has reached its conclusion. Our list of candidates was narrowed to two and, after interviews and observation of celebrating and preaching style, the Search has made their selection.

I would first like to express my sincere gratitude to Fr. Woodrow Gubuan for his dedicated service over the past four years as our Interim Vicar. At a time when we truly needed it, he has been a stabilizing presence when we needed it the most. He will remain with us for a period of a couple of months as Vicar Emeritus to assist with the transition. We pray that his well-deserved retirement will be enjoyable with his wife, children and grandchildren. Please join me in thanking Fr. Gubuan for his faithful service. We will be planning a get together to express our gratitude sometime in the near future, probably during the transition period.

After unanimous vote of the committee and also after receiving overwhelming approval by both the Bishop's Committee and Bishop Menees, we extended an offer to Fr. Joshua Drake to become the next Vicar of St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church in Stockton. He has accepted the offer and he and his family are making preparations for three major events in the life of a family. Change of employment, relocating their family to a new city and also the birth of their third child who is due around the end of August.

If you were at our services during Fr. Gubuan's absence, you may have had the opportunity to hear Fr. Drake celebrate as a supply priest and many of you were able to meet him during the coffee hour after his services. I hope that those who were able to hear him and meet him agree with the committee's decision that he will be a very good fit for our congregation. I would like you to join me in praying that Fr. Drake will lead us into the future, enabling us to spread the gospel to those we have been unable to reach in the past.

In His Name,
Mike Combs, Bishop's Warden
St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church



I am the True Vine

by Agnes Olmsted

Jesus said in John 15, "I am the True Vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the Vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." (NKJV)

Grapevines were a familiar sight in Palestine and even more familiar to the Jews was the symbolic meaning of the vine and vineyard. Biblical writings frequently likened Israel to a vine or vineyard. Israel had, however, become unfaithful and received God's judgment. When Jesus says, "I am the True Vine," He is really saying, "I am the true Israel." Jesus fulfills Israel's calling to be the vine of God.

In the farmland around us, you see many vineyards. Depending on the season, there are different stages in the life of a grapevine. We notice a dormant time, when the vine is connected to the earth and is sustained and strengthened to bud in the spring. With care and sunshine and water, in due time, fruit will appear. Whether we are called to love or serve or simply be in His presence for a season, the strength and inner resources to accomplish these things come through our Vine, our sustainer.

The Vinedresser, God the Father, knows the season when pruning is necessary to produce healthy and abundant fruit. The things that are not of God must be removed from our lives. As we keep our eyes on Jesus, those unproductive parts will fall away. Sometimes the pruning may be painful, but always it will be freeing us from that which holds us back from producing fruit.

As a branch, we draw life from the True Vine. When we are continually connected to Christ, His character will develop in us. This is possible through the Holy Spirit. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are all fruit produced by the Holy Spirit. Praising the Lord at all times and praying without ceasing are also products of abiding in Christ. As we conform to the likeness of Christ, the Holy Spirit may use us to draw others to Himself---more fruit.

August 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Healing Mass 12noon Movie Night 7:30pm	4 Holy Eucharist 9:30am
5 Pentecost XI 9:30 Holy Eucharist	6	7	8	9	10	11 Daughters 10am
12 Pentecost XII 9:30 Holy Eucharist	13	14	15 Taizé 7pm	16	17	18
19 Pentecost XIII 9:30 Holy Eucharist	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Pentecost XIV 9:30 Holy Eucharist BC Meeting	27	28	29 9:45am Women's Bible Study	30	31	



August 5th

Exodus 16:2-15 - Psalm 78:1-25
Ephesians 4:17-25 - John 6:24-35

August 12th

Deuteronomy 8:1-10 - Psalm 34:1-22
Ephesians 4:25—5:2 - John 6:37-51

August 19th

Proverbs 9:1-6 - Psalm 147
Ephesians 5:15-20 - John 6:53-59

August 26th

Joshua 24:1-2, 14-25 - Psalm 16
Ephesians 5:21-33 - John 6:60-69

The Messenger

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stocktonanglican.org



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