



St. Francis in the Foothills newsletter

November 2021



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Propositions by Bishop Spong

**Do We Still Agree?
Are We Still Working to
Make Change?**

During his remarkable career, Bishop John Shelby Spong published 26 books, each one questioning norms in the religious community that had gone largely unchallenged for centuries. **And he called us to do the same!**

So how are we doing?

In this class, we will study Bishop Spong's propositions



**Join us for Sunday
Celebrations -
In person or online!**

Our 7:45 am service is small,
quiet and meditative.

Our 9:30 am service is larger
(but still socially distanced!)
with music, readings and
loving energy.

Our online services
are available at
www.stfrancisinthefoothills.org

one by one and decide how we
think about them, and what
we're doing to move them
forward.

You can join us for either of
the Zoom sessions of this
class, or come to our in-person
class in Ravenscroft Hall.

The Zoom sessions will be
held on Wednesdays,
beginning November 10th,
at 10:00 am
or Thursdays starting
November 11th at 7:00 pm.

The in-person class will be
held on Thursdays, starting
November 11th, at 3:00 pm.

For more information, please
contact Pastor Jim at
(602)460-0711 or email
jwiltbank@stfrancisumc.org



***Celebration of Life for
Jimmy Murphy***

Saturday, November 6th,
12:00 pm (Arizona time) on Zoom

Please join us as we remember
beloved longtime
St. Francis member Jimmy
Murphy.

This service will be on Zoom only.
Go to the church website
www.stfrancisinthefoothills.org

and click on the box for the

service.
This will take you directly to the
Zoom page.



A Word from Our Pastor

I was a brand-new pastor and one of my friends, Jeff, invited me to a lecture he'd set up with one of his favorite theologians. I said I'd be happy to go, although I'd just learned about the man. However, as soon as Bishop John Shelby Spong began to speak, I felt my heart walk into its theological home.

The book that Bishop Spong spoke about that day, *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*, addressed many of the issues in my own life. Or maybe better said, it addressed the gaps that seemed so clear to me, but which were, apparently, invisible to many around me.

Bishop Spong spoke the questions that were on my heart.

Questions that addressed the ideas and beliefs we cling to as if they hold truth, while failing to look around at how the divine was

speaking truth in so many ways in the spaces around us.

Questions that were leading me beyond the “Junior Sunday School” understanding of God, Bible, and spirituality that seemed to pervade so much of the religious thinking around me.

Questions that were broadening and deepening my relationship with God.

In that book, John Shelby Spong wrote, **“If the Christ experience is real, then we must find a new way to talk about it.”**

For over twenty years he has been a shining light leading me to new understandings about my relationship to the Divine and increased joy in the spiritual path. For over twenty years he has challenged, cajoled, and coaxed me to step beyond what was so deep-set that it was not even questioned. For over twenty years John Shelby Spong has been my teacher, my guru, my prophet, and my trusted friend on my spiritual path of discovery.

Come join me as I continue this quest in our upcoming class “Propositions by Bishop Spong” in which we will celebrate his ongoing influence in the spiritual and theological world...and hopefully take some new steps ourselves.

Wednesdays starting November 10th at 10 am. on Zoom.

Thursdays starting November 11th at 3 pm. in the Ravenscroft Room.

Thursdays starting November 11th at 7 pm. on Zoom.

Jim



A Future With Hope

by Paula Van Ness
Chair, St. Francis Finance Committee

Stewardship Sundays are taking place for St. Francis this year in November and December. Now more than ever, in times like these, we need to reach out and lift each other up. As we look to the coming year and chart our course onward, we want to share our enthusiasm for “A Future with Hope.”

All of us, as a community, depend on each other to invest in our mission as a church sharing our time, talent, and treasure. Now more than ever, your generosity can and will make a difference. In a time of difficulty and despair for so many, St. Francis is a community of light and hope. In a time of injustice and struggle, we are a community of love and justice. In a time of silence and isolation, we are and can be a community of song, of new songs, and new ways of singing, new ways of being God’s church, together for joy and with hope in our hearts.

As the chair of the St. Francis Finance Committee, I invite you to join me making a pledge to support St. Francis financially in 2022. If you give generously to help us meet our operating expenses and get ready to become fully staffed and safely resume all our in-person gatherings, we reassure you that your financial gifts will be an investment in our ongoing mission.

When you receive your letter and pledge card in your email and/or mail, please take a few minutes to read it and to think about your pledge for the coming year. If you’re ready to fill it out and submit it, great! If it’s easier for you, it is possible to make a pledge on the St. Francis website. If you need to think about it for a while, please

respond when you're ready. We ask that if you can, please maintain or increase your commitment because we have big plans for the future and want to develop a solid spending plan for the coming year and meet our obligations.

Generous giving in 2022 will mean that St. Francis doesn't just survive this pandemic and withstand the other stresses in our society, but we will **thrive**. By joining together, we'll continue to help people in need and change lives forever. There are many reasons to anticipate and celebrate "A Future with Hope." Please join us.



On Monday, November 8th, St. Francis in the Foothills will begin handing out Holiday Food Bags, along with the regular food bags that we always give out. We also will be handing out Thanksgiving food cards to various grocery stores in town.

We are able to do this because of you. It's that simple.

You donated the grocery cards, you donated money to Katie Kans which helps purchase more grocery cards and groceries, you donated holiday foods and regular everyday foods when we asked. The words "Thank You" don't begin to express our gratitude.

And speaking of thanks, we want to give a big, loving thank you to those who volunteered at our Holiday Drive-Up Food Collection:

Seth Allen
Linnea Chambers-Daniell
David Daniell
David & Susan Davies
Wynn Houtkooper
Harlow Sires

and our wonderful Facilities Coordinator, Steve Barclay!

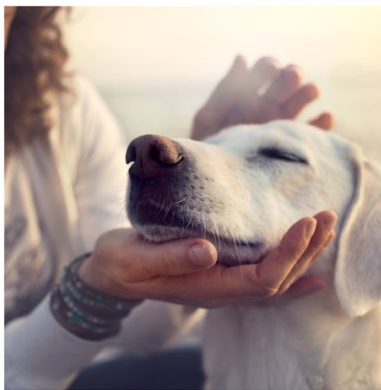
If you know of anyone who needs help with food during the holidays (friends, neighbors, the person with a sign on a street corner), please tell them about our free holiday food bags. The Food Pantry will be open during our regular business hours - Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, and Fridays 8:30 am to noon. And again, **Holiday Food Bags will be given out beginning November 8th.**

If you would like to donate non-perishable food items to the St. Francis Food Pantry, we can always use them! You can drop them off anytime during our business hours.

At this time we can use the following items:

- Gravy (Envelopes, cans, jars)
- Cranberry Sauce (Canned jellied or Whole Berry)
- Pumpkin Pie Filling Mix (Not plain pumpkin please)
- Apple or Cherry Pie Filling
- Pie Crust Mix
- Graham Cracker Pie Crusts
- Cheese spread (jarred - not refrigerated - such as Kraft Old English Spread, Roka Blue, Pimento Cheese)
- Canned/jarred paté or meat spread

As always, we thank you for your amazing generosity.



*Drive-Thru
Pet Blessing*

On Sunday, October 3rd, St. Francis hosted its *Annual Blessing of the Animals*, both at the 9:30 am service and at a special Drive-Thru Pet Blessing. Pastor Jim blessed many a furry body (we're talking animals

here!) while volunteers Sheri Houston and Melissa Mitchell handed out pet treats and gifts.

Volunteers David Daniell and daughter Linnea were at the Katie Kans booth and collected a lot of your saved-up coins. We also had people who asked to donate specifically to help animals. So we took up an unplanned collection for *Hope of Deliverance Rescue* - raising \$250.00!

Thank you to all who came out to have your pets blessed, and those who volunteered their time and energy to make this a fun, loving and successful event!

(Photos by Nancy Wilkinson and Melissa Mitchell)



Welcome to the Drive-Thru
Pet Blessing!



Treats and prizes await!



Pastor Jim is ready!



Linnea Chambers-Daniell and David Daniell collecting for Katie Kans.



People waiting to have their pets blessed!



Ready to be blessed!



"You are a joy and a blessing in our lives, and we are so grateful for your love."



Friends,

Thank you so much for supporting our 2021 RED Concert benefit for HIV/AIDS efforts locally and in Kenya.

With your support via ticket sales, 50/50 raffle, donations, sponsorships, and a portion of your food/beverage purchases, over \$19,000 was raised, to be split evenly between TIHAN and the Center for Health and Hope for our lifesaving programs.

We hope you enjoyed the benefit concert and the opportunity to meet friends and learn a bit more about how your support makes a difference.

Thank you again! We appreciate you
Scott



Join the fun and help decorate Care sacks for people living with HIV who come to St. Francis in the Foothills Poz Cafe to receive Care Packages and Christmas meals!

Decorating days: Sat. Dec. 4th and/or Dec.11th at the Community Center from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm or any part thereof.

Email John Wilson at jmwilson3557@gmail.com

or Pat Fox at pfox12@cox.net

to confirm your attendance.

Thanks, from TIHAN and all our Care Partners!



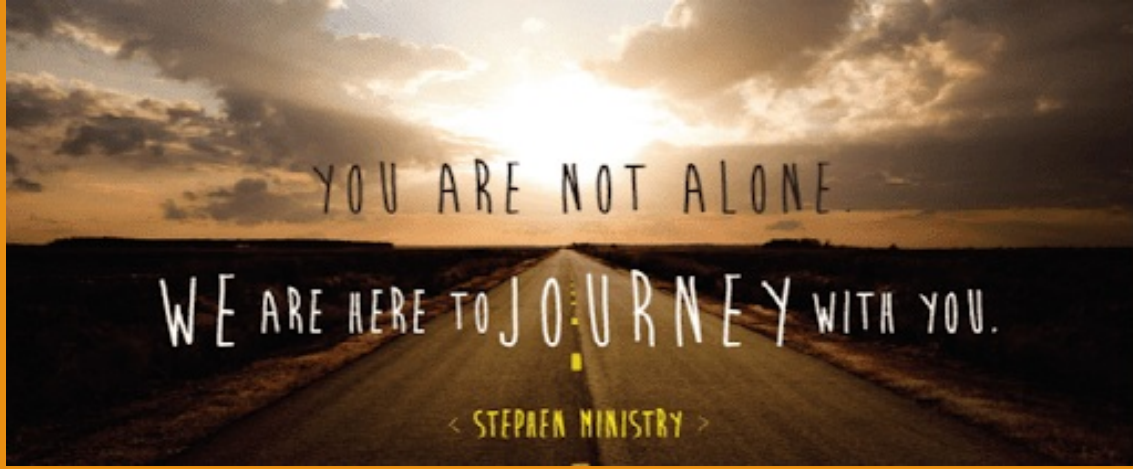
NPR recently reported on a study showing phthalates likely contributed to 100,000 premature deaths in the US. Read more about this at loe.org/phthalates. This is a category of chemicals in food packaging, cosmetics, cleaning products, many plastics, and children's toys. Often called "everywhere chemicals," they are associated with obesity, cancer, asthma, and hormone disruption. Everyday exposure can be reduced by avoiding plastics, as well as fragrance in cosmetics and cleaning products. It's not required to be listed in ingredients lists, but look for the companies labeling their products as "no phthalates." If you do have plastic food containers, at least keep them out of the microwave and dishwasher. Once again, proof that in caring for our environment, we protect our own health

Brought to you by the St. Francis Green Team



Because your faithful editor frankly forgot, here is a belated but nevertheless heartfelt "Thank You" to the following people who helped out at our September Spruce Up Day:

Chuck Adams
Steve Barclay
Kay Bauman
Diane Everhart
John Everhart
Doug Robson
Harlow Sires



**Are you having a difficult time
do you know someone who is?**

Did you know we are a non-denominational group who serves
all people in our extended community?

Stephen Ministers provide emotional and spiritual support
and listening care to those dealing with a crisis or chronic situation,
such as:

- Loss of a loved one (death or divorce)
- Hospitalization, chronic, or terminal illnesses
- Loneliness or discouragement
- Spiritual crisis
- Unemployment or job crisis

Stephen Ministers come under the supervision and care of
Stephen Ministry Leaders and Pastor Jim
who help to continue our caring education
throughout our ministry. Qualified candidates have initially
received 50 hours of group education in learning to provide
confidential, emotional, and spiritual care.

If you, or someone you know, might benefit from a Stephen Minister,
please contact Pastor Jim @ 520-299-9063 or
Joyce Leissring @ 520-404-1691.





Soup Makers Needed!

The Casa Maria Soup Brigade is Gearing up!

In the past, we have had a group of 3-5 people making a vegetarian chili soup in the Casa Maria kitchen **one Saturday per month** to help feed those in need. In order to do this again, we need volunteers who are willing to work on site at Casa Maria for about 2 hours on a Saturday morning. If we have 7-10 volunteers, you would only need to work every other month.

We work in two shifts: 7:30-9:15 to cook and serve soup (3 people needed), and 9:15-11:00 to continue serving and do cleanup (2 people needed). We would be wearing masks and keeping as much distance as possible in the small kitchen space. The clients remain outside, and we serve the soup to them through a sliding window.

If you think you might be interested, or if you'd like more information, please contact Margie Olson at pearl60.52@gmail.com



All-Church Spruce-Up Day

Saturday, November 20th,
8:00 am - noon

Oh, these beautiful Fall days!
Please come and give us a few hours
as we "fluff up" our beloved campus.

There are a variety of tasks you can choose from
and lots of friendly folks to talk with.

To volunteer or if you have questions, please contact Steve
at (520)299-9063 or email
facilities@stfrancisumc.org



Science & Religion Discussion Group

Meeting every Sunday at 9:00 am
in Room 50

Join us as we study The Great Courses class
Life in Our Universe.

The presenter is University of Arizona Professor
Laird Close.

If you have questions, contact Pam Bisson at
warpedwildcat69@yahoo.com



New Art Classes for November!

The Sunday morning art classes taking place on November 14th, 21st, and 28th (there is no class on 11/7) at 11:00 am will focus on sunsets.

We will use acrylic paint on canvas.

All art supplies and instructions - \$20 a class.

For information on these and other classes, or to sign up, please contact Nancy Wilkinson at **naquill@aol.com**.