



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

Although I am writing this before the annual Appreciation Dinner, I wanted to take one more opportunity to thank everyone who volunteered and continues to volunteer at the church. It just wouldn't work without you.

Congratulations to Jeanne Davies, James Glomb, Christina Hatley, Alexandra Jacobs, Anne Idsal, and Allan Parker who were confirmed by Bishop Millsaps on January 20. A special thank you to the Bishop for coming from Monteagle, Tennessee once again to provide this great sacrament of the church. Thanks also to all those who made the Confirmation celebration and reception a very special occasion.

Congratulations also to Gideon Hatley, the son of John and Christina Hatley, who was baptized into the Body of Christ on January 27. Welcoming a new Christian into the church is always a great day for us.

LENT

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which is on February 13 this year. As we always do, we will celebrate the Holy Communion at noon, with the distribution of ashes taking place after the homily. At 7:00 pm we will also have Holy Communion with the distribution of ashes. The beginning of Lent is a great opportunity to once again take stock of our own personal spiritual condition and to recommit ourselves to the proposition that God is God and we are not, and to rededicate ourselves to His service and advancing in the spiritual life that He would like us to have. Every Wednesday in Lent at 7:00 pm we will celebrate Holy Communion with a teaching on healing prayer and a healing service. Anyone who attends the Holy Communion may feel free to leave afterwards, but you are certainly welcome to stay for healing prayer. Our Transformation Prayer group will continue after the sermon. Anyone who attends the Stations may feel free to leave after the sermon, but you are certainly welcome to stay and pray with us until about 8:00.

We will also conduct our annual food drive during Lent this year (First Sunday of Lent, February 17 through

Palm Sunday, March 24). Ordinarily this would be done in May. However, since we will no longer be at our current location in May, I decided to take this time of prayer, fasting and works of charity to have our food drive. For the past several years our food donations have gone to The Storehouse in Pflugerville. The Storehouse is not just a food pantry but a Christian mission that brings the Gospel of Jesus Christ to its clients. Last year The Storehouse provided food to over 40,000 people in our area and there is a good possibility that the number could be greater this year. In addition to bringing food for the drive, I would encourage you to consider contributing financially to the Storehouse. They have a program called Hunger Busters. It is possible to set up a recurring donation by means of a credit/debit card or from your bank account. Just go to www.thestorehousenetwork.com and follow the instructions for giving. In the interest of full disclosure, I was added to the Board of Directors of the organization in 2012. I believe in what they do and how they do it. If you want to know more about The Storehouse, you can go to the website listed above. The whole story is there and I encourage you not just to read about it but to participate in some way. I realize that everyone has their own favorite places to make charitable donations. I would suggest to you that The Storehouse is a wonderful place not just for a charitable contribution but an opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people you will never even meet. Everyone wins in this partnership.

Our Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 3, after the 11:00 am service. As I mentioned to you in the last newsletter, this will be a challenging year for St. Francis and everyone's involvement is not only appreciated but needed. The annual meeting is an opportunity to find out what is happening and what you can do to be a part of it. We are not a large congregation and we need everyone's cooperation and participation to move forward. Please plan to attend.

Sunday School News

Classes continue along in full force from 9:30 to 10:30 in the parish house. The whole program and the younger elementary class is led by Rebecca Hoard. Each class session begins in the church where the children participate in the service up until the announcements. They then move to the parish house for class.

During the month of February, this class will begin a unit from the One Room Sunday School curriculum titled Stories of the Kingdom with selected passages from Luke where Jesus taught what God's Kingdom is like. The first lesson is from chapter 8 on the sower and the seeds, followed by the Good Samaritan from chapter 10, the Lost Sheep from chapter 15 and ending with the prodigal son also in chapter 15.

The older elementary/middle school class continues with the second year of the Teach Deep curriculum. They are working through the unit titled Images of the Church - lessons that explore the images used in the New Testament to describe the Church of Jesus. Discussion on these rich analogies help the class find out who they are and what God calls them to do. This month, the plan is to cover the Body of Christ, the Flock, the Family of God and the House of God. A new activity in this class is journaling. Rather than passively listening, each is writing down important points from the lesson. These should be interesting for them to read at the end of the year. Thanks to Doug Cooper for leading the class.

One important note: Sunday school pretty much occupies the entire parish house from 9:30 - 10:30. If you must come into the parish house, please talk in a whisper so as not to disturb the classes. Talking in the kitchen and the hallway particularly is well heard in the classroom and is quite distracting. Also, try to stay out of the space used by the classes until instruction is over at 10:30.

As always, please continue to pray for the teachers, students and parents who are part of our Sunday school program.

Mother's Prayer Group

Many of the women of our church are mothers, some with children at home and most with grown children. As a new empty nester, I have learned that my parenting responsibilities have only changed, not ended. I have grown to depend on prayer for my son as he navigates the world as I am chagrined to find out I have less control than when he lived at home. While my individual prayers are important, group prayer can be equally effective and to have someone else lift up my son in prayer is powerful. We also pray for all the children at St. Francis by name.

All mothers of children of any age are encouraged to

come to the mother's prayer group at yet another new time (but same day of the month): 12 pm, noon on the third Thursday. This month we will gather on the 21st in the parish house at noon. The prayer session will begin with a Bible reading, followed by prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication (the ACTS model). Prayers can be read, recited or said extemporaneously. Please mark your calendar and come. You will not be disappointed. - Amy Crandell

40 Days for Life

From February 13 - March 24, Austin will unite with hundreds of cities across the country and world for a simultaneous 40-day prayer vigil. 40 Days for Life is a 40-day campaign of prayer, fasting and a constant peaceful prayer vigil in front of abortion clinics. This international movement has resulted in abortion clinics closing, abortion clinic workers having conversions and leaving their jobs, and thousands of women choosing life for children they were going to abort. Please go online to AustinCoalitionForLife.com to sign up and choose an hour where you commit to pray and get involved with this powerful and life-saving movement. You can also find information by calling the Austin Coalition for Life office at (512) 296-2071.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be on February 12 from 6:30 - 8:30 in the parish house. Shrove Tuesday is not a widely known celebration outside the circle of churches who observe the liturgical traditions found in the Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist and Catholic churches. Mardi Gras is a more familiar designation for that day.

Here at St. Francis, we are following a tradition from the United Kingdom and many other countries where the day is often known as Pancake Day. Making and eating such foods was considered a last feast with ingredients such as sugar, fat and eggs, whose consumption was traditionally restricted during the ritual fasting associated with Lent.

Come to the Parish House from 6:30 - 8:30 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 12 to enjoy a meal of pancake and sausage. The men of the church, the loosely organized St. Polycarp of Smyrna Men's group, typically does the cooking.

Austin Marathon

The annual marathon is scheduled for Sunday, February 17. The race route remains the same -- Enfield will be closed to vehicle traffic. If you normally come to church via Mopac, take the 5th street exit and come up West Lynn. (Don't be fooled by the closing of Lake Austin

Blvd exit from the north which is about the same place. 5th Street exit will be open.) You can get the precise map at youraustinmarathon.com.

February Saint of the Month

The most famous saint memorialized in February is, of course, St. Valentine. But, a lesser known saint is also celebrated this month: Saint Dorothy. Her feast day is Feb. 6th. Dorothy's story is compelling. She was persecuted under emperor Diocletian for refusing to marry or to worship idols. On her way to her execution, a lawyer named Theophilus heckled her from the sidelines, mockingly asking her to send him some of the fruits and the flowers from the garden of paradise. She agreed and prayed for the lawyer's request just before she was killed. At the moment of her death, an angel appeared and gave Theophilus a basket containing three apples and three roses. The lawyer was instantly converted and later died a martyr. Saint Dorothy is a much-beloved saint in Germany and Italy.

Coffee Hour Sign-up

Volunteers are needed for our weekly Sunday fellowship hour after the 11:00 am service. Consider hosting a Sunday and providing some goodies for your parishioners. You can team up with a friend or organize a small group effort. Stop by the sign-up sheet during your next visit to the parish house. We need you!

Rector: The Rev. Canon Len Giacalone

Senior Warden: Mark Rambin

Junior Warden: Keith Harrell



Birthday

- 2 Victoria Glomb
Bud Lockhart
- 4 Jim Britt
- 5 Patricia Burnette
- 7 Burt Pigg
Kavya Parker
Willie Parker
- 8 Tristan Jensen
- 9 Kyle Read
- 12 Mike Ready
- 18 James Glomb
- 23 Peggy Presley
- 24 Callie Burnette
- 27 Marie Tarpley
Claire Carter



Organist: Paula Blaha

Acolytes: Ray Merrill, Ed Sandlin,

Arthur Woodgate and James Glomb

Newsletter Submissions

Any parishioner that has news of any kind they would like to share with everyone is welcome to send it in writing to Tricia Denslow at 640 Lakeside Dr., Wimberley, TX 78676 or to her e-mail address (triciadenslow@yahoo.com). If received **by the 20th**, it will appear in next month's newsletter.

St. Francis Anglican Church

1408 West 9th Street
Austin, Texas 78703

February 2013

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|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Games Night, 6:30pm | 14 | Evening Prayer, 6pm |
| 2 | Austin City Prayer Walk, 9am | 17 | Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91
Romans 10:5-13 Luke 4:1-13
Sunday School, 9:30 |
| 3 | <u>Morning Prayer and Holy Communion</u> ,
9:30 am and 11:00 am
Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-17
1 Cor. 14:12b-20 Luke 4:21-3
Sunday School, 9:30
Annual Parish Meeting, 12:30 pm | 19 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon |
| 5 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon | 20 | Stations of the Cross/Transformation Prayer
Group, 7:00 pm. |
| 6 | Transformation Prayer Group, 7pm | 21 | Mothers' Prayer Group, 12 noon
Evening Prayer, 6pm |
| 7 | Evening Prayer, 6pm | 24 | Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11 am
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:22-35
Sunday School, 9:30 |
| 10 | <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99
1 Cor. 12:27-13:13, Luke 9:28-36
Sunday School, 9:30 | 26 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon |
| 11 | Vestry Meeting, 5:30pm | 27 | Stations of the Cross/Transformation Prayer
Group, 7:00 pm |
| 12 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon | 28 | Evening Prayer, 6pm |
| 13 | Ash Wednesday, Holy Communion, 12 noon
Joel 2:1-2. 12-17 Psalm 103
2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Stations of the Cross/Transformation Prayer
Group, 7:00 pm | | |