

The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM OUR RECTOR

Fr. Aaron Cappucci

Serving on the Vestry

Our Diocesan Constitution and Canons require that “a vestry term of office shall be for three (3) years succeeding their election, and one-third (1/3) of the Vestry shall be elected annually” (Canon 25.2). This means that we are in need of three new vestry members in 2024 (as Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell, and Mike Ready are completing their terms). In order to be nominated to serve the parish in this capacity, one must be “a Confirmed Communicant in Good Standing of at least eighteen (18) years of age, canonically resident in [St. Francis Church], and who were financial contributors to the Parish in the preceding year as shown on the records of the Treasurer” (Canon 25.1).

With this in mind, it is appropriate to consider what a vestry is and what it does. Let us begin with what the vestry is. The vestry is a team of lay servant-leaders in the church whose responsibility is to care for the temporal needs of the parish. That is, the vestry ought to be composed of men and women who are others-minded. That is, as St. Paul says, they, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than [themselves]. Let each of [them] look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Phil. 2:3-4). The church is a living organism for whom Christ died, it is not an organization or club, therefore it is governed by servant-leaders and not task-masters.

This brings us to what a vestry is not. The vestry is not a "who's who" of a parish, it is not a social-political platform or office, nor is it a place to wield one's own influence or opinions over the church. It is an office of great service and responsibility before God and the rest of the parish. It is where we beseech God for humility as we strive after unanimity in every decision that is made.

In terms of what a vestry does, our Customary* puts it this way, "These men and women are chosen by members of the congregation to act as their representatives in the congregation's relations with its clergy and the management of its corporate property. The vestry may be considered the management team of the parish. It is accountable to the congregation for the supervision and conduct of temporal affairs." Simply put, the vestry's primary duty is to ensure the temporal affairs of the parish are in good order (e.g. bills are paid, property is maintained).

However, their duty extends beyond the temporal insofar as they act as counselors for the rector of the parish. Our Customary says this, "Vestry members share responsibility with the Rector or Vicar for setting the pace, shape, and direction of parish or mission life. Lines of communication between congregation, vestry, and clergy promote frank discussion and mutual confidence." An example of this relationship in action is the introduction of Adult Sunday School and the subsequent need to adjust service times in order to accommodate Christian education in the life of the parish. This was a team effort that impacts the spiritual growth and development of our members of the parish.

Finally, our Customary says this, "The vestry is not responsible for the liturgy of the parish. Direction of the liturgy is the prerogative of the clergy in conjunction with the directions laid out by the diocesan office." That is, the Rector alone oversees the liturgy and worship of the church. This is carried out in conjunction with the Bishop; an example of this is working with the Bishop and his office in utilizing not only our lectionary collects, but also the propers found in the 1928 Book of Common Prayer as we embrace the fullness of our Prayer Book Spirituality.

Please join me in prayer for guidance as we discern servant-leaders for vestry. You may submit your written recommendations to me either in person or via email.

For Guidance.

O GOD, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly; Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the Spirit of Wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Grace & Peace,
Fr. Aaron Cappucci+

* The Customary are regulations which are designed to flesh out our Diocesan Canons (laws) and indicate how the intent of the Canon is to be carried into effect.

PRAYER SHAWLS

Over the centuries, shawls have come to symbolize shelter, peace, and spiritual sustenance. Members of this ministry donate their time and talent knitting or crocheting shawls filled with the power of prayer for those in need of physical or spiritual comfort. The shawls are prayed over before and during the time of knitting/crocheting. In addition, the shawls are blessed before being given out. Recipients are comforted, and many are profoundly impacted from being surrounded in prayer. Anyone who knits/crochets (or wants to learn) can volunteer to create a shawl. If you want to help but knitting/crocheting is not an option, you can donate to help procure yarn and gift bags. If you would like to participate in this comforting ministry, please contact Charlotte Ready or email info@stfrancisaustin.org.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SERVICE TIMES CHANGE

Adult Sunday School will commence and service times will adjust accordingly beginning on January 7, 2024 (the first Sunday in January). The new schedule is listed below.

Sunday Schedule beginning January 7, 2024

8:30 am - Said Communion Service

9:30 am - Sunday school for all ages

10:30 am - Choral Holy Communion Service

ST. FRANCIS HOSPITALITY GUILD

Everyone enjoys the coffee and snacks after the service, as well as the luncheons for the 5th Sunday and other occasions. Cesiah and Doug Cooper have been coordinating this and appreciate the volunteers who have been signing up to help out. The idea is being floated to have a more formal structure for hospitality volunteers. We are looking for people to be members of a Hospitality Guild with the idea that teams of volunteers could be formed and scheduled to share the tasks associated with the social time after each of the services. Stay tuned for how you can be involved.

CHOIR RECRUITMENT

Do you enjoy singing? The choir is always looking for new members. Beginning January 7, 2024, the choir will rehearse after the 10:30 service in the Nave of the church for about 45-50 minutes to sing occasionally during the later service. We will skip rehearsals when there is an event at the same time, like a 5th Sunday Luncheon or the Annual Meeting, and we typically don't rehearse over the summer. We are all amateur singers who love to sing to the Glory of God. Amy Crandell coordinates the singing and Elisante is an excellent accompanist for the choir. Let Amy know if you would like to join the choir.

EVENING PRAYER

Evening Prayer is held each Thursday at 7 p.m. at the church This thirty-minute service opens and closes with a hymn with the order of Evening Prayer in-between. Come in person or send an email to info@stfrancisaustin.org to ask for the Zoom meeting link. We typically have up to 15 who physically attend and 1-2 who attend via Zoom. Fr. Cappucci leads the service. All are welcome to join us.

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

All are welcome to attend the St. Francis Epiphany celebration on Friday, Jan. 6, hosted by Jim and Amy Crandell. Come to church at 6:30 p.m. to enjoy a candle-lit meal together. At 7 p.m., we will have Evensong including the St. Matthew reading of the wisemen visiting the Christ child. The evening ends with dessert of King's Cake. Please let Amy or Jim know if you would like to attend so that enough food can be prepared. Either speak to one of them or email info@stfrancisaustin.org to RSVP.

MORNING PRAYER with HOLY COMMUNION

On the 4th Sunday of each month, the Sunday services will include Morning Prayer combined with Holy Communion. As mentioned last month, this is made possible by following the rubrics found within our Prayer Book – that is, it is nothing new but rather something ancient. It had been the custom of our

parish to say Morning Prayer with Holy Communion once a month, however, this discipline was stopped during the covid years. By reintroducing Morning Prayer with Holy Communion, the hope is that it will help reinforce the disciplined use of the Daily Offices in our homes throughout the week.

2024 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2024 annual meeting is set for January 28 after the 10:30 service. Reports by the Rector, Senior Warden & Treasurer will be given, plus an election for three vestry members and the approval of a delegate and alternate to the Diocesan convention next November. More details on this to follow.

Please submit your vestry nominations to Fr. Cappucci.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON

December 31 is a 5th Sunday and there will be a potluck luncheon after the 11:00 service. It isn't often we get to start our New Year Eve celebration on a Sunday! Plan to bring some yummy food to share with your St. Francis friends.

ST. FRANCIS' OUTREACH PROJECT: MOBILE LOAVES & FISHES

St. Francis supports the Mobile Loaves and Fishes (MLF) ministry, a social outreach ministry that has been empowering communities into a lifestyle of service with the homeless since 1998.

Founded in Austin, Texas, the organization serves its homeless neighbors through three core programs:

Truck Ministry

Through the support of thousands of volunteers, Mobile Loaves & Fishes food trucks hit the streets of Austin 7 nights a week, 365 days a year to provide food, clothing and other life-sustaining items to homeless men and women who are struggling to survive. With more than 6 million meals served, MLF has grown to become the largest prepared feeding program to the homeless in Central Texas and has spawned similar food truck programs in other cities across the country.

Community First! Village

As a result of the multitude of connections they have made with their homeless neighbors, they've learned that the single greatest cause of homelessness is a profound, catastrophic loss of family. It's from this understanding that MLF's vision emerged to build Community First! Village to welcome home their friends who had been pushed to the fringe of society.

Often referred to as the most talked about neighborhood in Austin, Community First! Village is a 51-acre master planned development that provides affordable, permanent housing and a supportive community for men and women coming out of chronic homelessness.

Community Works

Realizing that most, if not all, of the homeless neighbors are quite entrepreneurial in nature, Mobile Loaves & Fishes developed the Community Works program at Community First! Village to empower individuals to rediscover their God-given talents and move those talents into the economy.

Community Works provides micro-enterprise opportunities that enable their friends who have experienced homelessness to earn a dignified income, while also developing new skills and cultivating enduring relationships.

More than two decades ago, Mobile Loaves & Fishes' founders boldly answered God's call to "love your neighbor as yourself." Today they remain steadfast in this desire as they take part in an unprecedented movement and level of collaboration across Austin to ensure our homeless neighbors are not forgotten. Together, we are serving goodness and building hope for our friends who need it most.

St. Francis supports Mobile Loaves and Fishes in two ways: a monthly donation to the organization and support for the truck ministry with donations with clothing/toiletries, as well as directly volunteering for a monthly food truck run.

You can help out with donations for the Truck that gives out food, clothing and toiletries:

- Toiletries (soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, almost any hygiene item)
- New or gently used clothing for adults and children (socks and t-shirts are especially popular)
- Monetary donations can be made at: <https://give.mlf.org/give/138838/#!/donation/checkout>
- For more information, go to <https://mlf.org/>.

Items are collected on the table in the narthex.

TEXAS RALLY FOR LIFE

Event Date: January 27, 2024

Location: The Capitol in Austin

Join with other St. Francis parishioners and thousands of Texans at the Texas Rally for Life on Saturday, January 27, at the south steps of the Capitol in Austin. Show the media and our elected officials that Texas is PRO-LIFE! This event commemorates the Supreme Court's tragic Roe v. Wade decision that imposed legal abortion on Texas and the entire nation throughout all nine months of pregnancy and celebrates the overturning of the terrible precedent set in 1973 ... let's continue the work of turning the tide against this injustice. Parking is in almost any of the state lots on San Jacinto around 15th street. St. Francis people will be at the southeast corner of 15th Street and North Congress, near the curb of 15th Street. We are looking forward to a great turnout from St. Francis.

A Texas-sized diaper drive! Let's all help Texas moms and babies by bringing a box of diapers (especially larger sizes), and together we'll build a mountain of diapers that will be distributed to pregnancy centers across Texas. Bring the diaper to the MEETING LOCATION at 14th and Brazos.

We look forward to seeing you there! Questions? Contact Charlotte Ready or email info@stfrancisaustin.org.

Schedule for Rally for Life:

1:00 p.m. - Join THOUSANDs of fellow pro-life Texans at 14th and Brazos to grab signs and drop off diapers for the diaper drive before heading to the north side of the Capitol, where all will gather for the march.

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. - Rally on South Steps of Capitol with inspiring state and national speakers as we all stand for life!

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Stick around after the rally for the incredible Pro-Life expo on the Capitol grounds to learn more about amazing organizations and opportunities in our great state.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

11 Grady and Michelle Collins

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Dave Thomas

5 Doug Cooper

7 Tom George

10 Pam Cappucci

16 Liam Brummett

19 Arthur Woodgate, James Cox

25 Naomi Meredith

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Said Holy Communion. Healing prayers at the altar rail follow the service

9:15 a.m. Nursery is provided.

9:30 a.m. Sunday School (Adults & Youth)

10:30 a.m. Choral Holy Communion. Healing prayers after the service.

12:00 p.m. Choir Practice (after the 10:30 Communion Service)

Note: On January 28, Morning Prayer with Holy Communion will be held at both services.

Tuesdays

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Bible Study online via Zoom. New members are welcome,

Thursdays

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer in person in the church and via Zoom. All are welcome.

JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan 6

10:00 a.m. Prayers for the Nation

6:15 p.m. Epiphany Supper

7:00 p.m. Epiphany Evensong

Jan 8 - 2nd Monday

6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting via Zoom

Jan 12 - 2nd Friday

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Home group at the McCown's house. New members are welcome.

Jan 15 - 3rd Monday

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Readers of First Things group online meeting. Contact Karl Stephan at kdstephan@txstate.edu to join the online meeting via Zoom or come in person to the fellowship hall

Jan 26 - 4th Friday

4:30 p.m. Mobile Loaves & Fishes Make Ready Team

5:30 p.m. Mobile Loaves & Fishes Truck Run

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Home group at the McCown's house

Jan 28

11:45 a.m. Annual Meeting (no Choir Practice)

Note on the calendar:

- To join any of the meetings or services held via Zoom, email info@stfrancisaustin.org

READINGS FOR JANUARY

1/6 Epiphany

[\(Link to Readings\)](#)

Psalm 46, 100

Ephesians 3:1-12

St. Matthew 2:1-12

1/7 1st Sunday after Epiphany

[\(Link to Readings\)](#)

Romans 12:1-5

St. Luke 2:41-52

1/14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

[\(Link to Readings\)](#)

Romans 12:6-16a

St. Mark 1:1-11

1/21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

[\(Link to Readings\)](#)

Romans 12:16b-21

St. John 2:1-11

1/28 Septuagesima

[\(Link to Readings\)](#)

Psalm 20

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Matthew 20:1-16

Notes on the Readings:

- St. Francis follows the lectionary from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.
- The text read is from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.
- On the fourth Sunday of the month, we will use the Psalm appointed for that day in the Morning Prayer portion of the service.
- Each of the listed Sunday readings is linked to the corresponding page on <http://commonprayer.org/>

ST. FRANCIS ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTIN

A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

Diocese Office: 2900 Alameda St.

Fort Worth, TX 76108

<http://www.fwepiscopal.org/>

Bishop: The Rt. Rev'd Ryan Reed

Rector: Fr. Aaron Cappucci

Organist: Elisante Msengi

Parish Administrator: Mark Rambin

Treasurer: Grady Collins

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden - Doug Cooper

Junior Warden - Jim Crandell

Secretary - Dinah Arce

Vestry Members

Fr. Aaron Cappucci, Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell,

Michael Ready, Christina Hatley, Bill Palmer,

Dinah Arce, Susan Rambin, Mack Lindsey

St. Francis Anglican Church

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ST. FRANCIS' MISSION STATEMENT

- We are a community of believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ whose mission it is to spread that Gospel in what we preach and in the way we live.
- We are called to know the Word of God, to act on it in our lives and to share it with our brothers and sisters in the world.
- We are determined to uphold the ancient faith of our ancestors in the Anglican tradition, to offer traditional Christian values based on the Holy Word of God and to be faithful witnesses to the person of Jesus in the Austin Community.
- St. Francis parish is dedicated to the presence of Christ in the lives of the poor, the needy, the sick, to each other and to all those to whom Jesus comes to minister in his life on earth.
- As a community of believers, we intend to entrust our growth in love, in faith and in resources to the generosity of God.