

# The St. Francis Bulletin

## **FROM OUR RECTOR**

*Fr. Aaron Cappucci*

During the Annual Parish Meeting on January 28 th the curtain was drawn back and the parish was invited to “listen in” to one of the questions that was posed during the interview/candidating process. The question was along the lines of, “What is your vision of the future of St. Francis Church?” The following is a synopsis of the answer and conversation that followed. The answer centered on 1) the mission of the church and 2) how that mission informs the vision of the church.

**Mission:** The mission of the church was given by Christ before He ascended into heaven. The mission of the church never changes, it remains the same for all people across all time: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19.

**Vision:** While the mission of the church is timeless and remains the same, the vision of the church is variable and future oriented. That is, our vision for this next season of ministry at St. Francis Church is one that seeks to bring practicality to our mission as we move forward in the faith. If the mission of the church is to make disciples of all nations, then our vision for this next season of ministry is for St. Francis Church to be a place to belong.

Humans define themselves by a people and place. We are constantly looking for a people to associate with and a place to belong. When we consider our people and place, our attention is almost immediately drawn to (1) family, and (2) work/school. It may take a few additional moments for the church to come to our minds as a people and place where we belong. However, I want to expand our thinking beyond family and work/school to more fully embrace the church as a chief place of belonging. For it is the church who belongs to God and we are His dwelling place in these last days. It is the church, the bride of Christ, who will inherit the New Heavens and the New Earth.

Instead of thinking about St. Francis only in terms of activity (e.g., “Sunday Service”), we should expand our thinking where the parish is the “third place” around which we order our lives: (1) Home, (2) Work/School, (3) Parish. The following will help us to flesh out St. Francis as that “third place” of ordering our lives.

**“A Place to Belong”** - St. Francis Church is to be the place where anyone can find a spiritual home to grow in Christ over a lifetime. To this end, St. Francis Church needs to be warm and hospitable to both members and visitors. We must remain a caring parish for all ages and any who wish to grow spiritually. We must encourage and provide opportunities for regular fellowship amongst all parishioners.

Although our culture boasts of being the most connected in human history, loneliness has seemingly never been more rampant. How many of us have been in a room crowded with people, and yet feel incredibly lonely? My dear friends, this is the reality of the world around us. There are numerous studies that focus on the rise of loneliness across generational lines. The world around us is looking for a place to belong.

Let us, let St. Francis Church be the place to belong. Let us be the parish where sinners of all kinds meet the God of mercy and grace, not only in the ministry of word and sacrament, but in your fellowship. Let St. Francis be the church where when people walk through the door, they immediately think, “this is where I belong, these are my people.”

Let us prayerfully consider our individual role and responsibility in making St. Francis Church a place to belong. Let us pray and ask, “Lord, what would you have me to do?”

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **THE BROOKSIDE SCHOOL INITIATIVE**

Refugees and asylum-seeking families who immigrate to the United States often end up in some of the lowest-performing schools, made worse by the bullying that immigrant students often encounter because they look different and speak with an accent or in another language. Moreover, Christian immigrant families would greatly prefer to send their students to a Christian school and both Christian and non-Christian immigrants often desire for their students to attend a school with a clear moral foundation for behavior, a necessary foundation for education sorely lacking in public schools.

For four years while in Philadelphia, Fr. Andrew Brummett led Christ Academy, a school that served mainly African refugees and asylum-seeking families with a classical, Christian education through a micro-school, church-based model. The education provided by Christ Academy was simultaneously lower cost and higher impact than anything else around. It appealed to Christian and non-Christian immigrant families as well as native-born citizens.

In Austin, [More Than Welcome](#) is a new non-profit connecting Christians and churches with immigrants for Gospel friendships and witness through meeting needs and welcoming new neighbors. Alongside More Than Welcome and in partnership with Redeemer Presbyterian Church of Austin, Fr. Andrew and Doug Cooper are part of a team creating the Brookside School based on the Christ Academy model. This initiative seeks to help the Church fulfill in the educational arena three key biblical mandates to “proclaim liberty to the captives” (Luke 4:18), “remember the poor” (Gal. 2:10), and “love the stranger” (Lev. 19:34).

You are invited to find out more about this initiative and how you can support and love new neighbors. If you would like to be on our email list, you can sign up on our website [here](#). We will be hosting an informational lunch on Wednesday, March 6th about this initiative. Please reach out to Fr. Andrew or Doug in person, by phone, or by email ([wabrummett@gmail.com](mailto:wabrummett@gmail.com) or [dougwadecooper@gmail.com](mailto:dougwadecooper@gmail.com)) to let us know you would like to attend the lunch or find out more about the Brookside School or More Than Welcome.



### **ANNUAL MEETING**

The 2024 Annual Meeting was held on Jan. 28. We heard wonderful reports by the Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden & Treasurer. James Cox, Ethan Hoyt, and Franklin Hunt were elected to be our new Vestry members to replace outgoing members: Doug Cooper, Jim Crandell and Mike Ready. Marsha Crosby was approved to be the delegate to the convention in November and Steve McCown was approved to be the alternative delegate. During the vestry's next meeting on February 12, Fr. Cappucci will announce who will be the next Senior Warden and the Vestry will approve other members to be the next Junior Warden and Secretary.

### **CONFIRMATION 2024**

On June 16, 2024, Bishop Ryan Reed will be at St. Francis for his annual Episcopal visit. This will include confirmation, reception and re-affirmation as well. If you are interested and an adult, let Fr. Cappucci know so that he can be sure you are prepared. For youth 13 and up, join Doug Cooper's class on Sunday mornings where he will prepare the students in the class.

### **2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS AVAILABLE**

The 2023 contribution statements are available electronically. If you want to receive a 2023 contribution statement, please email our Parish Administrator, Mark Ramin, at [mrambin@msn.com](mailto:mrambin@msn.com) to make a request.

### **HOME GROUP**

The Crandells have decided to start hosting the small group at their home in central Austin at 7 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month beginning on Feb. 25th. The gathering can be characterized as a Spiritual Formation group where members share the working of the Holy Spirit in their lives, study the lessons for the upcoming service, and pray for each other. If you are interested in joining the group, please let Amy or Jim know. Email at [info@stfrancisaustin.org](mailto:info@stfrancisaustin.org).

### **"HIGHER GROUNDS" COFFEE HOUR**

Susan Ramin and Jane Cox are joining forces to head up Hospitality at St. Francis - thank you ladies! Coffee Hour now has an official name: "Higher Grounds." Help would be much appreciated. There is a sign-up sheet on the easel in the Narthex. You can volunteer to set up, clean up and provide food donations, even make the coffee! Consider helping out!

### **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER**

Join us at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13 for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The men of St. Polycarp's Guild will continue the tradition of making and serving pancakes (with toppings) for this occasion.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent and falls on February 14th this year. There will be said Holy Communion services with the imposition of ashes offered at 12:00 p.m. and at 7:00 p.m.

### **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](mailto: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.

## **40 DAYS FOR LIFE PRAYER VIGIL**

40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil Campaign: Please join us in praying for an end to the demand for abortion by making an appointment with God on the sidewalk during our Spring 40 Days For Life Prayer Vigil, February 14- March 24th. Texas babies are still being aborted. There has been a massive increase in abortion pills being sent through the mail (which is illegal, but very difficult to enforce). With abortion pills readily available via mail order, women are still having abortions throughout Texas and the nation. Furthermore, abortion referral facilities are now serving as travel agencies referring women out of state in order to have abortions. We need to be on the sidewalk to provide women and their families with life-affirming resources. It has been stated that the no-show rate can increase up to 75% when there is a sidewalk presence outside of a facility. Please consider making an appointment with God on the sidewalk! You WILL save lives! Signup at <https://www.CentralTexasCoalition.com/signup/>.

### **LENTEN FOOD DRIVE**

A St. Francis food drive benefiting the Food Pantry at St. Louis the King of France Catholic Church will be conducted during Lent from February 14 - March 24 (Palm Sunday).

The St. Louis food pantry provides food assistance to the needy of our community and is the largest food pantry in Austin. Volunteers distribute food on Saturday mornings from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. This is one of several social ministries this large parish can offer. The St. Louis food pantry is a partner with the Capital Area Food Bank. On a typical Saturday, up to 80 families who live in the central Austin area receive food assistance.

Bea De la Rosa is the Director of Social Ministries at St. Louis and welcomes contributions, but she does have specific items the pantry will accept from a food drive (listed to the right)

There will be a table set up in the St. Francis entry hall for donations. Consider purchasing some or all of the items on the list and bringing them to church during Lent.

#### Protein

Canned chicken  
Canned tuna  
Canned Salmon  
Spam

#### Starch/Protein

1-2 lb. bag white rice  
1-2 lb. bag pinto beans  
Oatmeal  
Mac & Cheese

#### Vegetables

14 oz. Canned Corn  
14 oz. Canned Green Beans

### **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

7 Tara and Rudy Montalvo

### **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2 Bud Lockhart  
Oliva Carrillo

4 Jim Britt

5 Patricia Burnette

9 Ed Stillman

### **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS (cont.)**

10 Marci Brown

12 Mike Ready

14 Tom Rhyne

15 Bolanle Asimolowo

19 LeAnn Carr

22 Mathilde Hatley

26 Eleanor Carrillo

## **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 February 25, 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.

## **FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

**Feb 3 - 10:00 a.m.** Prayers for the Nation

**Feb 9 - 2nd Friday - 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.** Home group at the McCown's house. New members are welcome.

**Feb 12 - 2nd Monday - 6:00 p.m.** Vestry Meeting via Zoom

**Feb 13 - Shrove Tuesday - 6:00 p.m.** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

### **Feb 14 - Ash Wednesday**

12:00 p.m. Said Holy Communion Service

7:00 p.m. Said Holy Communion Service

**Feb 19 - 3rd Monday - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.** Readers of First Things group online meeting. Contact Karl Stephan at [kdstephan@txstate.edu](mailto:kdstephan@txstate.edu) to join the online meeting via Zoom or come in person to the fellowship hall.

### **Feb 23 - 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

### **Note on the calendar:**

- To join any of the meetings or services held via Zoom, email [info@stfrancisaustin.org](mailto:info@stfrancisaustin.org)

### **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>.

## **READINGS FOR FEBRUARY**

### **2/4 Sexagesima**

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

2 Corinthians 11:19-31

St. Luke 8:4-15

### **2/11 Quinquagesima**

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

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

St. Luke 18:31-43

### **2/14 Ash Wednesday**

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

Joel 2:12-17

St. Matthew 6:16-21

### **2/18 1st Sunday in Lent**

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

2 Corinthians 6:1-10

St. Matthew 4:1-11

### **2/25 2nd Sunday in Lent**

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

Psalm 86

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

St. Matthew 15:21-28

**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 Ramin

**Treasurer:** Grady Collins

***Vestry Members***

Fr. Aaron Cappucci, James Cox, Christina Hatley,

Ethan Hoyt, Franklin Hunt, Bill Palmer,

Dinah Arce, Susan Ramin, Mack Lindsey

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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.