



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

There are a number of important things going on in November. I don't wish to spend much time on any of them but they do bear mentioning.

Election Day, 2006

There is a general election coming up on November 7. Most, if not all, of the state wide offices are in play as well as the entire House of Representatives and one third of the Senate. I have mentioned to you before that I believe it is the duty of Christians to participate in the government of their country. I realize that often it doesn't seem to make a lot of difference. Nonetheless, voting in this country is a privilege and an obligation to my way of thinking. Early voting is going on right now and the polls are open on Election Day from seven in the morning until seven in the evening. There really isn't much of an excuse not to perform this civic duty. Get out there and vote!

Thanksgiving Day

There will be a Thanksgiving Day Holy Communion service at St. Francis at 10:00 am. If you wish to bring the bread you intend to use for your thanksgiving dinner I will be happy to bless the bread during the service. I realize that many of you go out of town for this holiday to see family. For those of you who might have family coming in, why not bring them to church on Thanksgiving morning so that you don't forget what the day is really about. November 23, 10:00 am.

Veterans Day

Saturday, November 11, is Veterans Day. Originally, this day commemorated the victory of the Americans and their allies in World War I and was called Armistice Day. It was later changed to honor all the men and women who have served in the various branches of our military. This is a day that is often overlooked by many Americans. Not much attention is paid to it except by veterans groups like the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans. Although I have never served in the military, I have a great deal of respect for those who have. Over the years I came to a real appreciation of the sacrifice of men and women like my father, who served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He spent almost the entire war in a Japanese prisoner of war camp after having survived the Bataan Death March. His service and sacrifice along with the millions of others who have served make it possible for us, even to this day, to enjoy the kind of lives we live. We take this too much for granted. I know many of you have seen the bumper sticker, "If you can read this, thank a teacher." There's another one that says, "If you are reading this in English, thank a soldier."

I would like to suggest to you that on Veterans Day you find yourself someone who has served this country in a military uniform and thank him or her for their service. Although most of them are not looking for accolades of any kind, I believe each of them will appreciate knowing that you are grateful for their service to our country.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

The Sunday school classes continue to go well. Each Sunday, about a dozen of the St. Francis youth and children divide into three classes to discuss the lessons for that Sunday. Thanks to Julie Rambin (with me as the assistant) for leading the youngest children in Godly Play stories and activities, to Claire Ducker for working with the children from the first through the sixth grades as they read, discuss and have other activities on Old Testament stories, and to Steve McCown for leading a group of our teenagers in a discussion of the lessons appointed for that Sunday.

An upcoming activity in November is the assembly of the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child on November 20. With donations from the St. Francis parish family, we plan to fill 20 shoeboxes and deliver to the donation site that afternoon. In December, we plan to go to Bethlehem Town in Burnet, but the date has changed to the first Sunday of December on the 3rd. More details about this will be in the weekly bulletin.

Please continue to pray for our Sunday school program.

-Amy Crandell

EMC SYNOD

John will be submitting an official report on our bi-annual national convention of the EMC (and I hope that Andrew Brummett will offer his perspective to you as well); so I hope to give you a sampling of what I saw as your delegate. If you are familiar with the many synods from the inception of the continuing movements, it comes as no surprise that many of them are remembered as meetings for clerical opportunists and distrusting laity. Although there was always a remnant of those who were there because of an abiding love and loyalty to our LORD and Savior, they were the minority; at least as far back as I remember these meetings (1982). I had not attended a synod in about ten years, and what I witnessed last week in Columbus was quite the opposite. Everyone was friendly. Each person that I spoke with seemed to be genuinely happy to be together and interested in what was happening in other congregations.

The few clergy I spoke with were humble in their manner, and willing to talk about how God was moving in and around them.

There were a couple of displays of compassion that touched me to the core of my spirit. First, a certain priest had just received news that the 21-year old daughter of his best friend had just died. Everyone around him stopped to offer sympathy, give him a hug or a touch on the shoulder, and offer prayers for the grieving families. Second, as I left the communion rail I noticed a woman in a near-front pew weeping quietly. Immediately, the several people around her gathered nearer, laid hands upon her and began praying. Her priest came over and joined in the comfort. I am encouraged to be associated with others who are unashamed to comfort those who mourn or are overwhelmed.

These are not the usual items included in a formal report of a national convention, but for me they are why I am so very thankful to be a part of the EMC family: "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

-Jesus (John 13:35)

In His Love, Wanda

WHY ARE SMALL GROUPS VITAL TO ONE'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

"And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds."

-Hebrews 10:24

In addition to *hearing* God's word and being spiritually *nourished* by the Holy Eucharist, meeting together for personal encouragement is vital to one's spiritual growth. Following Jesus' example, it is good to meet regularly with a small group from within one's church family to encourage each other. It is well worth the effort to train for running the race of life with spiritual endurance. Therefore, we intend to start the New Year with the formation of small groups with the goal of "stimulating one another to love and good deeds."

The format of our small groups will include firstly a commitment to confidentiality. We will share how we experience the Holy Spirit's work in and around us, and also listen to personal prayer requests. Next, will be discussion of the week's Propers (OT, NT, psalm and

gospel readings), and finally a brief introduction to one of the many spiritual disciplines (beginning with Richard Foster's "Spiritual Disciplines"). There will be ample time to develop a unique identity for each group as the cords of Christian charity bind us together in God's unity. As our numbers increase, small groups will keep us personally connected, which is vital for the spiritual well-being of each individual person within our church family.

Our sincere prayer is that you will consider the value of joining a small group, and that your resolve for the new year will be a willingness to train vigorously for a season of spiritual growth.

More detailed information will be given in the December newsletter. Please consider signing up soon; so we can begin organizing these groups. A sign-up sheet is on a bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

God's blessings to you,
John and Wanda

USHERS NEEDED

Ushers are needed for both the 9:30a.m. and 11:00a.m. services. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Ben Ellis at 707-9848 or e-mail (bellis2@austin.rr.com).



MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP

All mothers and grandmothers of the church are invited to attend the mothers' prayer group, held in the Parish Hall. The group spends an hour on the second Monday of every month at 11 a.m. praying for their families. For more information, call Kay Francis at (512) 868-1092.

Rector: The Reverend Len Giacalone
Senior Warden: Mark Rambin
Junior Warden: Keith Harrell



Birthdays

- 3 Mark Rambin
James Garrison
- 6 Cole Brasuell
- 9 Walter Hutson
Mary Ogden
- 11 Meredith Stults
- 12 Elizabeth Brummett
- 15 Donald St. Martin
Mary St. Martin
- 22 William Henry Hoard
- 25 Steve McCown
- 29 Thomas Pangle
- 30 Amanda Ogden
Gordon Kinahan

Anniversaries

- 9 Bill and Claire Ducker
- 10 Hal and Sarah Sheads
- 20 Stephen and Dayna Moss



Associate Rector: The Reverend John Stults
Organist: Sylvia Kelley
Server: Ray Merrill

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 Erika Denslow at 640 B 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 Episcopal Church

1408 West 9th Street

Austin, Texas 78703

NOVEMBER

2006

1	Adult Christian Education, 7:00 p.m. in parish hall.	15	Adult Christian Education, 7:00 p.m., in parish hall.
3	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m. Games Night, 6:30 p.m.	17	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.
5	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., <u>Morning Prayer and Holy Communion</u> , 11:00 a.m. (Deut. 6:1-9), Psalm 119:1-16, Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 12:28-34 <i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>	19	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., Daniel 12:1-13 Psalm 16, Hebrews 10:31-39, Mark 13:14-23 <i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>
8	Adult Christian Education, 7:00 p.m. in parish hall.	22	Adult Christian Education, 7:00 p.m. in parish hall.
10	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.	23	Thanksgiving Day. <u>Holy Communion</u> , 10:00 a.m., Deut. 8:1-3,6-10, Psalm 65:9-14, James 1:17-27, Matthew 6:25-33 <i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>
11	Veteran's Day	24	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.
12	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., 1 Kings 17:8-16 Psalm 146, Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44 <i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>	26	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., Daniel 7:9-14, Psalm 93, Revelation 1:1-18, John 18:33-37 <i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>
13	Mother's Prayer Group, 11 a.m. Vestry Meeting, 5:30 p.m.	29	Adult Christian Education, 7:00 p.m., in parish hall.