



## The St. Francis Bulletin

### **FROM THE RECTOR:**

At the beginning I would like to make just a brief follow-up to the Annual Parish Meeting that was held on February 3. For the past two years we have published a printed report of the activities of the parish and these reports indicate that we have a very active and involved parish. In fact, the number of volunteers we have in many different ministries is remarkable for a parish our size. I want to thank Mark Rambin for actually putting the report together, this year as well as last. If you still don't have one, there are copies of it on the organ in the back of the church.

### ***Holy Week and Easter***

We are quickly working our way to the holiest time in the church year: the week we call Holy Week. It is called that because it commemorates the great events of the life of Jesus in the last days of his human life, from the Entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to his resurrection the following Sunday. Of course, the church remembers these events liturgically each year and we will do so again this month. March 16 is Palm Sunday and we will bless and distribute palms at each of the Sunday Holy Communion services at 9:30 and 11:00 am. On that Wednesday, we will pray our final Stations of the Cross for this year at 7:00 pm. Maundy Thursday celebrates the institution of the Eucharist at the supper on the night before Jesus died. That will also be at 7:00 pm. At the end of this service we strip the altar, which traditionally is a symbol of Our Lord himself, to remember that Jesus was stripped of his garments before he was crucified.

On Good Friday, we will read the Passion of Our

Lord according to St. John and venerate the cross as the symbol of our salvation. 7:00 pm. The Solemn Easter Vigil at 7:30 pm is the first service of Easter, proclaiming and celebrating the resurrection of Jesus even as it reveals the events of this week as the culmination of salvation history.

As I always do, I recommend these services to each of you and ask you to make an attempt to participate. Those who do, always acknowledge how wonderful and inspiring these liturgical commemorations are. If you have never attended them in the past, I encourage you to do so this year. They present additional opportunities to worship God in communion with each other. We can scarcely afford to pass up too many of these opportunities.

Easter Sunday morning we will have our regular schedule of services at 9:30 and 11:00 am. We usually have pretty good attendance at these Easter morning masses. That's great! Bring your families and worship the Lord together all week long. You will be glad you did.

Contributions are still being accepted for Easter lilies. If you would like to make a donation and remember loved ones at the same time, just place your contribution in the envelopes on the table in the back of church and put all the appropriate information on the envelope. Please give it to Angie McCown or Nancy Critchfield-Jones. Thanks for all your remembrances and donations in the passed. May all of you have a very spiritual and profitable remainder of Lent and Holy Week.

## **St. Francis Home Groups**

The St. Francis home groups began a little more than a year ago. A sign-up list was posted and a meeting of all interested adults was held. John Stults, with invaluable assistance from Wanda, divided us into four groups of eight and gave us a printed structure for sessions: a series of questions to ponder, in addition to reading the lessons for the upcoming Sunday.

The small group consisting of Steve & Angie McCown, Bill & Claire Ducker, Mike & Char Ready, and Jim & Amy Crandell decided to meet twice a month beginning at the home of the Duckers. We soon decided to rotate from one home to another and incorporated Evening Prayer into our sessions. We begin with prayer and then offer an opportunity to discuss how the Holy Spirit has been active in our lives. A lesson is read and sometimes begin discussing right away and other times after a couple of lessons are read (with canticles and prayers in-between). After about 1 1/2 hours, we end with an opportunity for each to pray and then depart until the next time.

At our last meeting, we all were commenting on how valuable our home group has become to each of us and how we had hope that others would respond to John Stults' appeal to find St. Francis members to put into existing or new groups. These are some comments said at the last meeting:

- This group has become a foundation to us -- a place where we can discuss how the Holy Spirit is working in our lives with like-minded people.
- This is a place where we can receive encouragement to hear God's will and then to act upon it.
- It has helped me to be aware of the way God works in my life and those around me.
- It's great to be able to get together with a bunch of people to talk about the Bible, the faith and other serious matters and not be thought of as weird.

- It is a place where we can share our understandings of the scripture and be enriched by what other members of the group contribute. It is as if each of us bring a tiny bit of wisdom into the group, which is a place where we pool our little bits of wisdom into a little more wisdom, with the Holy Spirit contributing some wisdom on the spot.
- We go there for comfort and support to share our concerns with other people who genuinely care for us and will pray for us.
- We highly recommend new members of St. Francis to join a home group.

When John Stults issues a call for new members of home groups later on this spring, please prayerfully consider responding.

## **Mark Your Calendar!**

### **St. Claire's Guild of Women of St. Francis**

The combined service committees of the church women will hold their Spring meeting on March 1st at 10 am in the Parish Hall.

Reports from the chairwomen of each committee will bring us up to date on their recent activities and progress.

All parish women are invited to attend for fellowship and inspiration.

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry Group will meet on the first Saturday of every month, at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Anyone interested in joining this group is welcome.

The Prayer Shawl group knits and crochets shawls with prayer and love to be given to anyone who could benefit from the warmth and comfort they bring. If you know of anyone you would like to see receive one, please call Phoebe Hughes at 476-6216.

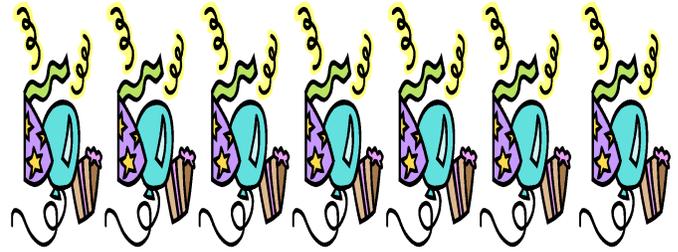
## Sunday School News

Thanks to Tim Williams for leading the class of teenagers during January and half of February. St. Francis is fortunate to have adults like this to steer the conversation of these teenagers.

The younger class has taken on two projects during Lent. The first is that each child is to spend one minute each day with Jesus -- just the child in silent prayer each day. This is acting on the scripture, from Psalm 46: *Be still and know that I am God.* The second project is to send school supplies to a soldier in Iraq to give to the Iraqi children. The supplies have been purchased and are on their way to Iraq. (We were able to join with the project from St. Paul Lutheran School in getting the supplies to their pastor who is stationed in Iraq as a chaplain.) On the first Sunday in Lent, each child decorated a mite box to collect money. We hope to collect \$100 to cover the costs of the school supplies. However, contributions from other St. Francis members are needed. Please see Susan Ramin or Amy Crandell to contribute.

Thanks to the parents who are able to carve time out of their busy lives to be sure their children attend Sunday School.

Please include the St. Francis Sunday School in your prayers -- that the awesome job of teaching the truth be carried out in God's love.



### **Birthdays**

2	Mason Jensen
4	Andy Adkins
5	Bobbie Kemp
7	Heather Pangle
8	Laura Hitt
12	Pam Stephan Georganne McCullough
15	Shirley Ellis Warren Stewart
26	Jennifer Faught
27	Melissa Elliott
29	Laura Elliott David Sikes
30	Victor Carsrud

### **Anniversaries**

1	Larry and Eileen Cole
2	Bob and Mary Ogden
14	G.W. and Carole Martin
19	Miller and Elizabeth Hicks
21	Bill and Susan LaRoux



**Rector:** The Reverend Len Giacolone  
**Senior Warden:** Mark Ramin  
**Junior Warden:** Keith Harrell

**Associate Rector:** The Reverend John Stults  
**Organist:** Paula Blaha  
**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 Tricia 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

## MARCH

2008

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| <p>1 <i>Meeting of Daughters of Martha and Mary and St. Clare's Guild, 10am</i><br/><i>Prayer Shawl Ministry Group, 11:00 am</i></p> <p>2 <b><u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am, Morning Prayer and Holy Communion, 11:00 am,</u></b><br/>(1 Samuel 16:1-13), Psalm 23<br/>Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-38<br/><i>Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish Hall</i></p> <p>5 <b>Stations of the Cross, 7:00 pm</b></p> <p>7 <b>Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</b><br/><i>Game Night, 6:30 pm</i></p> <p>9 <b><u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am,</u></b><br/>Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130<br/>Romans 6:16-23, John 11:1-44<br/><i>Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish Hall</i><br/><i>Daylight Saving Time</i></p> <p>10 <b>Mothers' and Grandmothers' Prayer Group, 11:00 am</b><br/><i>Vestry Meeting, 5:30 pm</i></p> <p>12 <b>Stations of the Cross, 7:00 pm</b></p> <p>14 <b>Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</b></p> <p>16 <b><u>PALM SUNDAY, Holy Communion, 9:30 am, Morning Prayer and Holy Communion, 11:00 am,</u></b><br/>Matt.21:1-11, Isaiah 45:21-25<br/>Psalm 22:1-11, Philippians 2:5-11<br/>Matthew 26:36-27:66<br/><i>Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish Hall</i></p> | <p>19 <b>Stations of the Cross, 7:00 pm</b></p> <p>20 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY, Holy Communion, 7 pm</b><br/>Exodus 12:1-14a, Psalm 78:13-25<br/>1 Cor. 11:23-32, John 13:1-15</p> <p>21 <b>GOOD FRIDAY, 7 pm</b><br/>Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 40:1-14<br/>Hebrews 10:1-25, John 18:1-19:37</p> <p>22 <b>SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL, 7:30 pm</b><br/>Genesis 1:1-2:2, Genesis 22:1-18<br/>Exodus 14:10-15:1, Isaiah 55:1-11,<br/>Ezekiel 36:24-28, Romans 6:3-11<br/>Matthew 28:1-10</p> <p>23 <b><u>EASTER SUNDAY, Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am,</u></b><br/>Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 111<br/>1Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31<br/><i>Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish Hall</i></p> <p>28 <b>Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</b></p> <p>30 <b><u>Holy Communion, 9:30 am and 11:00 am,</u></b><br/>Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 111<br/>1Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31<br/><i>Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish Hall</i></p> |
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