



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

First of all, may God grant all of you a blessed new year filled with joy and peace. Christmas day is passed but the Christmas season remains for us to celebrate liturgically. I want to thank all who made Christmas a beautiful celebration again this year. Our wonderful volunteers go out of their way to make our worship as beautiful as possible and I am grateful to each and every one of you.

Between Christmas and Epiphany the church begins the new year with the celebration of the Holy Name of Jesus. This may seem a bit strange to us. Not that Jesus' name should not be held in high esteem but that we should have a feast day to celebrate it. The ancients, however, saw much more in a name than we usually do. Names had meaning (I guess some still do) and a person's name was often descriptive of the person's character, personality or in the case of Jesus, his mission. The name, Jesus, means 'the Lord saves'. And so he does. And because Jesus is both Savior and Lord and God his very name is not just descriptive of a personality or mission but rather his very being. In the *Magnificat*, Mary exclaims "holy is his name." Even though she speaks of the Father she is telling us not something simply about God's character but something about his essence.

It is who God is. Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God of hosts. Therefore, just as God's name should never be used in a way that shows disrespect and certainly not to curse, so the name of Jesus requires the same reverence and honor. In the liturgy we bow out of respect for the name of Jesus. Unfortunately, it is not so sometimes in our everyday conversations. If you want to make a resolution for beginning the new year, try to remember that the name of Jesus is always to be worshipped, honored and loved since it represents Jesus himself.

Parish Appreciation Dinner

As we have done for the last few years we will again have a volunteer appreciation dinner for everyone who volunteered for anything in the parish during calendar year 2009. As I have said in the past I am not going to be the arbiter of whether or not you fall into that category. You will have to make that decision yourself. I have no details yet since I have not made any arrangements for the party. I intend for it to be on Saturday evening, January 23. So try to hold that date open. More details will follow soon and a sign-up sheet will appear in the parish hall. You must sign up to be included in the festivities.

From the Rector (continued):

Our annual parish meeting will be held on Sunday, February 7 after the 11 am service. We will do the usual things such as electing new members of the Vestry and approving the annual budget for the parish. But this is also the time for discussing the important matters the parish is dealing with at this time. All members of the parish who are at least 18 years of age and who pledged during 2009, may vote on any matter that comes up at the meeting. This is your opportunity to have some input on matters that affect our congregation. Please plan to attend.

Games Night Postponed

You didn't miss the January games night. It was decided to move the Games Night to January 8. Come to the Parish House around 6:30 and bring something light and tasty to eat or drink. After visiting and eating dinner, we break out the games and have a grand time. We finish the evening around 8:30 pm.

Fifth Sunday Already!

January has five Sundays. This means the potluck luncheon on the 31st. Plan to bring something to eat and stay after the 11:00 service. The event is in the Parish House.

The other fifth Sunday happening is the visit to the Retirement and Nursing Center on Burnet Lane from 3:30 to 4:30. We sing about 10-12 songs that most of the residents know by heart and add a few prayers and Bible readings in-between. More folks are always needed to sing or to just sit with the residents.

Children's and Youth Christian Education

I cannot help but to report with pride on the excellent job the children did with their performance of the Christmas Pageant on December 20. All the elementary aged children in the Sunday school class, as well as those usually in the nursery joined with the teens to present an admittedly ambitious pageant that spanned from Advent to Epiphany. I am particularly proud of the three cast members who were able to memorize and read lines. Most had several roles to play and they handled the costume changes with adeptness.

Classes are currently on break and will pick up again January 10. The elementary aged class will begin a study of New Testament stories. First we will discuss Epiphany in the broader sense that Jesus was the savior of the whole world. The next lessons will be on how having Christ in the home leads us to being a part of the family of God followed by a lesson on how we should follow Christ's example and be a servant to each other and to God. The last Sunday of the month begins our Pre-Lent season with a lesson on how Peter learns to forgive.

The teen class decided that the Bible study worked well. They will begin the new year by studying the book of Romans in the same Life Change Series. Mike Ready is willing and able to lead the class once again, as Ellen is interested in pursuing other interests, like college. Thanks Ellen for working with the class this past semester.

Anglicans for Life

On January 17, "Sanctity of Life Sunday", Saint Francis' chapter of Anglicans for Life will be visiting the Austin Pregnancy Resource Center after the 11:00 service. Everyone is invited to join us. This is the 37th anniversary of the handing down of the Roe vs. Wade decision by the Supreme Court making abortion legal in this country. Help us to stand up for life.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Wes Stults for earning the very prestigious award of Eagle Scout! We are all very proud of him!

Christmas Eve Coffee Hour

Thanks to Michael Adams for coming up with the idea of having a coffee hour after the Christmas Eve service. I know I wasn't ready to go home after the awesome Christmas Eve service and found this party really fun. My suggestion is we do it again next year. - Amy Crandell

Anyone wishing to receive this church bulletin by e-mail instead of the United States Postal Service please notify Tricia Denslow. Contact information is below.

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



Birthdays:

- 1 Audrey Woodgate
- 4 Frances Gould
- 5 Philip Crandell
Doug Cooper
- 6 Jerry Bordelon
- 17 Tom Matthews
- 18 Elizabeth Kinahan
Gayle Horn
- 19 Arthur Woodgate
Gary Horn
- 25 Barbara Rawson
- 28 Cornelia Foster
- 29 Margaret Sikes
- 31 Ben Ellis

Anniversaries:

- 23 Graham & Kimberly Kinahan



Associate Rector: The Reverend John Stults
Organist: Paula Blaha
Server: Ray Merrill and Arthur Woodgate

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 Anglican Church

1408 West 9th Street
Austin, Texas 78703

January 2010

- 3 **Holy Communion**, 9:30 am,
Morning Prayer and
Holy Communion, 11:00 am,
Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 84
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a, Luke 2:41-52
- 5 Anglican Rosary 12 noon
- 6 Transformation Prayer Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 8 *Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church*
- 10 **Holy Communion**, 9:30 am and 11:00 am,
Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 89:20-29
Acts 10:34-38, Luke 3:15-16, 21-22
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am
- 11 Vestry Meeting, 5:30 pm
- 12 Anglican Rosary 12 noon
- 13 Transformation Prayer Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 15 *Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church*
- 17 **Holy Communion**, 9:30 am and 11:00 am,
Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 96
1 Cor. 12:1-11, John 2:1-11
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am
- 17 **Holy Communion**, 9:30 am and 11:00 am,
Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 96
1 Cor. 12:1-11, John 2:1-11
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am
- 17 Anglicans for Life meeting, 12:30 pm
- 18 Mother's and Grandmother's Prayer, 11:00 am
- 19 Anglican Rosary 12 noon
- 20 Transformation Prayer Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 22 *Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church*
- 23 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. TBA
- 24 **Holy Communion**, 9:30 am and 11:00 am,
Nehemiah 8:2-10, Psalm 113
1 Cor. 12:12-27, Luke 4:14-21
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am
- 26 Anglican Rosary 12 noon
- 27 Transformation Prayer Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 29 *Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church*
- 31 **Holy Communion**, 9:30 am and 11:00 am,
Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-17
1 Cor. 14:12b-20, Luke 4:21-32
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am
Pot Luck Lunch, 12:30 pm