



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

February will be a busy month at St. Francis so let's start at the beginning. The annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will take place at Cannoli Joe's on February 4, beginning at 6:30 pm. If you get this by the 1st and still haven't signed up to go, please call me. I need to give the folks at the restaurant a head count by 2/2. As you know, the dinner is open to anyone who volunteered at the church in any capacity during the previous year. That's a lot of you. We'd love for you to attend, but you do have to sign up.

Sunday, February 5, is our Annual Parish Meeting. As in other years, we will elect members to the Vestry, approve the annual budget and take care of any other business. This year the Vestry decided to present a slate of candidates for election to the Vestry. The slate includes Carole Martin and Don St. Martin who are already on the Vestry, and Doug Cooper. Nominations will again be taken from the floor during the meeting. The Annual Meeting is the only chance during the year to voice your opinions and concerns in public. Of course, you may do it privately at any time. Please plan to be there for the meeting. It will take place after the 11:00 am Sunday service.

As I mentioned to you in the last newsletter, the Austin Marathon will take place on Sunday, February 19—all morning and into the afternoon. Once again, Enfield Road/15th Street will be compromised with regard to

traffic and if you use this route you will have to find another way to get to church (not coming to church is not an option). I am sure that the route for the race will be published in the newspaper and you can find it online at [www.youraustinmarathon.com](http://youraustinmarathon.com) <<http://youraustinmarathon.com/>> Please prepare in advance for this annoyance.

Lent

February 22 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. As in years past there will be two services on Ash Wednesday, the first, Holy Communion with the distribution of ashes at 12 noon and Stations of the Cross, with the distribution of ashes beginning at 7:00 pm. We will continue to have Stations of the Cross each Wednesday during Lent at the same time. It has been my practice for the last several years to provide a short meditation after the Stations. This year the topic for these meditations will be the letters to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation. We should not assume that material of this sort is not relevant to us in our time simply because it was composed two millennia in the past. All Scripture is God-breathed, and therefore important for us in our lives today. I know I will see many of you on Ash Wednesday but I would encourage you to make the effort to include the Stations of the Cross in your Lenten devotions.

Also in the past I have recommended some spiritual reading for Lent. I have suggested these books because I believed that they might be of some benefit to your spiritual life. This year's book is The Harbinger by Jonathan Cahn. Cahn is a Messianic Rabbi with a congregation in New Jersey. I am not suggesting this book to you simply because I think it might be of some spiritual benefit to you. This book is a must read for every American, not just for American Christians but for every American. Cahn discusses the events of September 11, 2001 in light of Isaiah 9:10. I will tell you no more than that. The book is available in paperback and therefore fairly inexpensive. It is written in an easy to read, narrative style, but you won't be able to put this one down. I can't encourage you enough to get this book and read it—maybe twice.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Each year, St. Francis has a pancake supper on the Tuesday before Lent begins. Shrove Tuesday is not a widely known celebration outside the circle of people who observe the liturgical traditions found in the Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist and Catholic churches as Mardi Gras is a more familiar designation for that day. We are following a tradition from the United Kingdom and many other countries where the day is often known as Pancake Day. Making and eating such foods was considered a last feast with ingredients such as sugar, fat and eggs, whose consumption was traditionally restricted during the ritual <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ritual>> fasting <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fasting>> associated with Lent. Come to the Parish House from 6:30 - 8:30 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 21 to enjoy a meal of pancake and

sausage cooked up by the men of the St. Polycarp of Smyrna's group.

Christian Education News

Have you ever thought how a child makes sense of the statement from Mark: "Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men."? This past Sunday (Jan. 22) the lesson was on Jesus calling his disciples. Before getting into the meat of the lesson, I asked what they thought Jesus meant by this. Literal thinkers they are, none of the answers were close -- a lot of replies about catching other people in nets or with a hook and a fishing pole were tossed out. After a quick detour from the planned discussion to explain this, my hope was that they would remember the main point of the lesson -- it doesn't matter how smart you are or how good you are in school or in sports. If you follow Him, God will use you to bring salvation to others. What is probably going to be remembered are the fish they painted together or the dance that Missy Bernard did to tell the story a different way.

February begins with the three Sundays of the "gesimas" or PreLent, with Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday. The last Sunday of February is the first Sunday of Lent. In case you wondered, the big yellow banner in the Parish House is a representation of the church year. Each Sunday, I move the arrow one square clockwise. This is the time of the year we move through the colors -- purple for Advent, White for Christmas, green for Epiphany and purple again for pre-lent and Lent. This is much more interesting than the many weeks of the green of Trinity.

As is typical during the spring semester, we continue with New Testament stories: the story of Mary and Martha from

Luke 10, Jesus and the Children from Matthew, Mark and Luke, the story of sending out the 72 disciples 2 by 2 from Luke 10 and ending with a lesson on the season of Lent. Even children can practice some of the traditional disciplines of Lent -- there is some food they could give up, many add additional prayers during Lent, and nearly everyone collects coins for the Mite boxes to give to the poor.

The youth class continues with one lesson titled Ticking God Off -- Jesus clearing the temple at the beginning of Lent, then moves on to a series of lessons titled Tough Jesus that build up the Resurrection story.

Classes continue with 5 children in the youngest class, 6 in the older elementary and up to 4 in the youth class. I am thankful that the kids come back every week. They seem to really enjoy each other and are a fun group. Thanks to the adults who share in the teaching with the elementary kids -- Kim Norris, Martelle Wathen, Cassandra Jensen, Missy Bernard, and Rebecca Hoard and of course, Doug Cooper with the youth class.

Keep up the prayers for the Sunday school at St. Francis. I am comforted to know our children are being lifted up in prayer.
Amy Crandall

Rector: The Rev. Canon Len Giacalone
Senior Warden: Mark Rambin
Junior Warden: Keith Harrell



Birthday

- 2 Erin Darling
Victoria Glomb
- 4 Jim Britt
- 5 Patricia Burnette
- 7 Burt Pigg
- 8 Tristan Jensen
- 9 Kyle Read
- 12 Mike Ready
- 18 James Glomb
- 23 Peggy Presley
- 24 Callie Burnette
- 27 Marie Tarpley

Anniversary

- 14 John and Wanda Stults



Associate Rector: The Reverend John Stults
Organist: Paula Blaha
Servers: Ray Merrill and Arthur Woodgate
Ed Sandlin and Philip Crandell

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 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

FEBRUARY 2012

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Transformation Prayer Group, 7pm | 19 | <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am 1 Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 27 2 Peter 1:16-21 Mark 9:2-9 Sunday School for Children and Youth, 9:30 Austin Marathon |
| 2 | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church | | |
| 3 | Games Night, 6:30pm | | |
| 4 | Austin City Prayer walk, 9am | | |
| 4 | Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, 6:30 pm | 20 | Mother's Prayer Group, 11:00 am |
| 5 | <u>Morning Prayer and Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am 2 Kings 4:18-37 Psalm 142 1 Cor. 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39 Sunday School for Children and Youth, 9:30 | 22 | Transformation Prayer Group, 7:00 pm |
| 8 | Transformation Prayer Group, 7pm | 22 | ASH WEDNESDAY, Holy Communion, 12 noon; Stations of the Cross, 7 pm Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 103:8-14 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 |
| 9 | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church | 23 | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church |
| 12 | <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am 2 Kings 5:1-15b Psalm 42 1 Cor. 9:24-27 Mark 1:40-45 Sunday School for Children and Youth, 9:30 | 26 | <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:3-9 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-13 Sunday School for Children and Youth, 9:30 Annual Parish meeting, 12:30 pm |
| 13 | Vestry meeting, 5:30pm | | |
| 15 | Transformation Prayer Group, 7pm | 29 | Transformation Prayer Group, 7pm |
| 16 | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church | 29 | Stations of the Cross, 7 pm |