



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

As most of you know I had to have emergency surgery in February to deal with a hole in my colon. To borrow a phrase from Father Tim Williams, “the recent unpleasantness” has set me back a bit. Since this began almost two weeks ago I have received cards, visits, meals and most importantly, prayers from all of you who knew of my condition. I want to thank all of you for your kindness to me and to Nancy. While I hope to be back in the near future, my complete recovery will take some time. I very much appreciate Father Stults taking care of the services at St. Francis in my absence, especially Ash Wednesday. I understand that there were a goodly number of people who attended both services and I hope that your observance of Lent will be a good one. I would be remiss without publicly thanking my wife for the love and the care she has given me so far and will in the future. Situations like mine are often as hard or harder on the caregiver than the patient and she has been wonderful. I’m blessed to have her.

Some Thoughts on Lent

This morning I was reading a portion of a sermon by St. Leo, a fourth century bishop of Rome. Since I’ve never been shy about “borrowing” other people’s material, I do want to give credit where it’s due. The basis of the sermon is the observance

of Lent. But the emphasis is not so much on what is to be done: prayer, fasting, and works of mercy, as it is the how and the why of what is done. The object of any or all of these actions must be intentional and focused. The emphasis must not be on the action itself but on a closer relationship with God. For that to happen, whatever we do must be geared to a greater love of God and our neighbor, enhancing these relationships as we move through our observance of Lent. In other words, what we decide to do for Lent matters less than how and why we do what we do. Each individual’s observance of Lent is just that, individual. And one’s observance must never be compared to another’s. The amount of prayer, fasting, bible reading, and, to use an old word, almsgiving, must all be done according to the direction of God and for His glory and honor. If we are in tune with how God wants us to observe Lent, that will draw us closer to Him and sharpen our ears to the sound of His voice. The desire in our hearts to please Him and to come closer to Him will make our experience of Lent and ultimately Easter a more satisfying one. In the end, what God wants from each of us is all of us. Lent is designed to make ourselves more available to Him. Is what you are doing now making that happen more easily?

If not, it is not too late to rethink how you are observing Lent and adjust your thinking and your practice. Remember, what God wants from you is you. How you get to that point is much less important. And remember, drawing closer to God always means moving away from sin. Repent, for the kingdom of God is here.

Christian Education News

The elementary class begins the day in the 9:30 worship service, where the most exciting activity to them is saying the Nicene Creed. It is refreshing to hear the youthful voices in with the adults while we all recite the Creed together. The lessons for this group during March are mostly spent on stories of the last week of Jesus' life. The first Sunday is different in that we talk about the 10 Lepers -- with one who came back to say thanks. After that, the lessons are on the last supper, the events in the garden of Gethsemane and then Peter denying the Lord before the rooster crows. All this was preceded with the children figuring out what discipline to do during Lent -- what to give up and what to add. Children find the most interesting activities to follow during Lent. I will undoubtedly have a story or two to tell for the April newsletter.

The youth class, led by Doug Cooper has begun a section called Tough Jesus that leads up to Easter. The lessons are titled "Count the Cost", based on the passage from Luke 14: *Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple*; "Lose Your Possessions" based on this passage from Luke 14: *So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his*

own possessions; "Forgiveness" is a lesson on the sayings of Jesus on forgiveness and finally "Serving Others" a lesson on what Jesus meant by being a servant.

A piece of exciting news that affects Sunday school is a single nursery caretaker has been found. Grace Rowse is a UT student working towards being a special education teacher and will start working in the nursery in February. This means the patchwork of volunteers between the nursery and the Sunday school classes will be simplified and the moms who helped out with both will be able to attend more of the 9:30 church service. Grace will stay for the 11:00 service as well, relieving these volunteers as well for a bit. We decided to try the nursery caretaker only during the school year, so the volunteers will pick up again in the summer. Thanks to the Vestry for investigating this option and to Missy Bernard for doing all the work to find this young lady.

Continue to keep the Sunday school program in your prayers. God is hearing them! -Amy Crandell

Can You Help with Transportation?

Each Sunday, two children are picked up at the 183/Mopac area and brought to Sunday school by 9:30 am and then taken back home at about 11:00. In the afternoon, a member of the Baraka congregation is picked up in about the same area for the 4 pm service that Fr. Peter Ng'ang'a holds in the Sanctuary and is taken home about an hour later. Help is needed to occasionally drive these good folks either in the morning or afternoon and either to or from St. Francis. Sign-up on the list in the parish house or speak to Mike Ready if you are interested and to get specific directions.

Once a month or every couple of months would be helpful.

Anglicans for Life

The Saint Francis' chapter of Anglicans for Life will meet on Sunday, March 18th, after the 11:00 coffee hour in the Parish Hall.

Everyone is invited to join us in supporting life through educating ourselves and supporting pro-life organizations. Also, the "Choose Life" license plates are now available for purchase. The cost is \$30.00, \$22.00 of which goes toward the promotion of adoption.

Easter Lilies

We are now in the Season of Lent and we look forward to the celebration of Easter when we decorate our church with lilies. This is a time that you may want to remember those no longer with us or you wish to offer a thanksgiving for a person or occasion. There are envelopes on the table in the back of the church where you can indicate the names of the people or occasion you wish to honor. Put your check in the envelope and fill out the front of the envelope and drop it in the box.

Shirley Ellis,
Altar Guild Director

Rector: The Rev. Canon Len Giacalone

Senior Warden: Mark Rambin

Junior Warden: Keith Harrell



Birthday

- 1 Toby Coley
- 2 Mason Jensen
- 4 Andy Adkins
- 5 Bobbie Kemp
- 7 Heather Pangle
- 8 J. P. Wathen
- 12 Pam Stephan
- 15 Shirley Ellis
Melissa Nelson Bernard
- 26 Jennifer Faught
Joe Gardner
Grady Collins
- 30 Victor Carsrud

Anniversary

- 1 Larry and Eileen Cole
- 14 G.W. and Carole Martin
- 19 Miller and Elizabeth Hicks
- 21 Bill and Susan LaRoux



Associate Rector: The Reverend John Stults

Organist: Paula Blaha

Servers: 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 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

MARCH 2012

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| 1 | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church | 14 | Stations of the Cross/Transformation Prayer, 7:00 pm |
| 2 | Games Night, 6:30pm | 15 | Evening Prayer, 6pm |
| 3 | Austin City Prayer walk, 9am | 18 | <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am
2 Chronicles 36:14-23 Psalm 122
Ephesians 2:4-10 John 6:4-15
Sunday School for Children and Youth, 9:30 |
| 4 | <u>Morning Prayer and Holy Communion</u> ,
9:30 am and 11:00 am
Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 16
Romans 8:31-39 Mark 8:31-38
Sunday School for Children and Youth, 9:30 | 18 | Anglicans For Life Meeting, 12:30pm |
| 6 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon | 19 | Mother's Prayer Group, 11:00 am |
| 7 | Stations of the Cross/Transformation Prayer, 7:00 pm | 20 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon |
| 8 | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church | 21 | Stations of the Cross/Transformation Prayer, 7:00 pm |
| 11 | <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19:7-14
Romans 7:13-25 John 2:13-22
Sunday School for Children and Youth, 9:30 | 22 | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church |
| 12 | Vestry meeting, 5:30pm | 25 | <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51
Hebrews 5:1-10 John 12:20-33
Sunday School for Children and Youth, 9:30 |
| 13 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon | 27 | Anglican Rosary, 12 noon |
| | | 28 | Stations of the Cross/Transformation Prayer, 7:00 pm |
| | | 29 | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church |