



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

Annual Parish Meeting

On Sunday, February 7, we will have our annual parish meeting following the 11 am Holy Communion service. We will do the usual business at the meeting including electing three members to the Vestry. This year the Vestry decided to have an open election without presenting a slate of candidates. The following members of our parish have agreed to run: Jim Crandell, Keith Harrell, Mary Ogden and Mark Rambin. I appreciate these folks being willing to take on this responsibility. We will also review the parish budget for 2010 and approve it. This year will be a bit more challenging than last since pledges were down for the second straight year. I realize that we are in difficult times but I would also appreciate your not only meeting your pledge but doing a little better if that is possible. Let me just say that I am grateful for the service of all the members of the Vestry over the years.

Lent 2010

Wednesday, February 17, is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. We will have our usual schedule of services on Ash Wednesday, Holy Communion with the blessing and distribution of ashes at 12 noon and Stations of the Cross with the distribution of ashes at 7:00 pm. We will also have Stations of the Cross every Wednesday during Lent at the same time.

Our Wednesday evening Transformations prayer group will continue on Wednesday after Stations and anyone who attends the Stations is invited to stay and pray for about one hour. We are not an exclusive group. Anyone who sees the need for repentance, prayer and worship would most certainly be welcome to join us.

The discipline of Lent is (or should be) three-pronged, as the Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday explains. Prayer, fasting and works of charity are all part of the program. These disciplines are not confined to Lent but the Church encourages us to kick it up a notch, as Emeril would say. These disciplines are designed to go together since they take the emphasis off of us and place it on someone else, whether God or our fellow man. Of all of these disciplines, fasting may be the hardest (it is for me) and the most foreign to our sensibilities. We are not big on denying ourselves much of anything. But fasting helps us to center our attention outside of ourselves by curbing our desires and offering them and our sacrifices to God. This need not be extreme and, in fact, I recommend that it not be unless you are practiced in the art. Self denial, however, is essential to the Christian life and important for drawing closer to God. Prayer is the foundation of it all and almsgiving is the outward expression of love and concern for those who are less fortunate.

I am reminded here of the people of Haiti whose current suffering is immense and will be for months to come. I mentioned to the congregation on January 17 that the church has sent a contribution in the amount of \$2,500.00 to Operation Blessing, an arm of CBN to assist in their recovery work in the tiny island nation. Your own personal gift to the cause would be an added blessing. Just something to think about. However you practice Lent this year make the intention to make it a good one, so that at the end your celebration of the Lord's resurrection will be wonderful.

Last fall, many of you were involved in the 40 Days for Life campaign. On Sunday, February 14, representatives from 40 Days will be at St. Francis to sign up participants for the spring campaign. It begins on Ash Wednesday, 2/17 and runs through Sunday, March 28, Palm Sunday. Your participation in the past was an important part of this Pro-Life ministry and I hope that you will respond in great numbers again this year.

Children and Youth Sunday School

Please continue to include the children, youth and teachers in our Sunday school program in your prayers.

The elementary aged class has modified their schedule a bit. Since many of the lessons talk about the colors and seasons of the church year, as well as prayers and Bible readings, I thought it would benefit this class for everyone to attend the beginning part of the 9:30 service. This allows the children to become familiar with our worship service.

With the beginning of Lent coming up during February, this class will decorate their

mite boxes and choose an organization to donate the money to after Easter. It is always fun to count the pennies at the end!

The older class continues their study of the book of Romans with Mike Ready. Please remember that any child or youth is welcome to come to Sunday school at any time! - Amy Crandell

Prayer Groups

Prayer is essential to developing and maintaining a relationship with the Lord. Through prayer, you can know what God's will is for you. Soon you will be able to recognize how you can join in His work. The foundation to a prayer life is quiet time between only you and the Lord. As more and more St. Francis parishioners find time to pray, this can only strengthen our church. Psalm 46: 10 states; "Be still, and know that I am God." I remember this verse and try to stop for a few minutes each day to acknowledge these words. I pray that each of you can find time in your life to do the same.

Along the vein of prayer, St. Francis has several prayer groups with each having unique characteristics. For some reason, I have attended all of them this month.

The mothers and grandmothers' prayer group joins together once a month. I was totally surprised at what I experienced. They meet in the Parish House and sit comfortably in a circle. You may wonder how this group could pray for an hour. Wanda Stults has a general organization of the time -- praise, confession, prayer for families, prayer for the church, general prayers of intention and

supplication. Each person prays aloud in a short prayer as the Spirit leads her. 'Round and 'round we went, seamlessly moving from one general area to another. This special hour was over very quickly. The Wednesday evening prayer for transformation is quite different. We meet in the church where the tabernacle with two candles are placed on the altar. Most spend the hour on their knees. The time begins with corporate prayers and moves on to quiet reflection. During this time, individual prayers can be offered of confession and supplication. Sometimes, a Psalm or other Bible passage is read. Frequently, someone starts to sing and others join with them. Again, the hour is over quickly.

On Sunday morning, a small group of us meet downtown at 7 am. We begin with a collect and either walk or drive to a different area. For a few weeks, we walked to and prayed in front of all the downtown churches. We have walked around the capitol building and prayed at each side. We have gone to the judicial buildings for the state and county governments. We prayed for the media businesses downtown. We prayed in front of the bars and clubs that have sprung up downtown. We pray for the people who live downtown. There is a lot going on

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

between 15th street and the river where prayer is needed. We end up where we started and close with another collect.

I encourage you to try one of these prayer groups to supplement attending the weekly Holy Communion service. If not, please commit to praying every day -- just you and God. I don't think anyone can ever pray too much. -- Amy Crandell



Birthdays:

- 2 Erin Darling
- 4 John Gaitan
Jim Britt
- 5 Patricia Burnette
- 7 Burt Pigg
- 8 Tristan Jensen
- 9 Kyle Read
- 11 Elizabeth Elliott
- 12 Mike Ready
- 24 Callie Burnette
- 27 Fred Savage

Anniversaries:

- 14 John and Wanda Stults
- 19 Tim and Elaine Williams



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

February 2010

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| 2 | Anglican Rosary 12 noon | 15 | Mother's and Grandmother's Prayer, 11:00 am |
| 3 | Transformation Prayer Meeting, 7:00 pm | 16 | Anglican Rosary 12 noon |
| 4 | Women's Bible Study, 12 noon. | 17 | Ash Wednesday, Holy Communion/Ashes,
12:00 noon;
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 103:8-14
2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Stations/Ashes 7:00 pm |
| 5 | <i>Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</i>
Games Night, 6:30-8:30 pm | 18 | Women's Bible Study, 12 noon |
| 7 | <u>Holy Communion,</u> 9:30 am,
<u>Morning Prayer and</u>
<u>Holy Communion,</u> 11:00 am,
Judges 6:11-24a, Psalm 85
1 Cor. 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am
Annual Parish Meeting | 19 | <i>Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</i> |
| 8 | Vestry Meeting, 5:30 pm | 21 | <u>Holy Communion,</u> 9:30 am and 11:00 am,
Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91
Romans 10:5-13, Luke 4:1-13
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am |
| 9 | Anglican Rosary 12 noon | 23 | Anglican Rosary 12 noon |
| 10 | Transformation Prayer Meeting, 7:00 pm | 24 | Transformation Prayer Meeting, 7:00 pm |
| 11 | Women's Bible Study, 12 noon. | 25 | Women's Bible Study, 12 noon |
| 12 | <i>Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</i> | 26 | <i>Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</i> |
| 14 | <u>Holy Communion,</u> 9:30 am and 11:00 am,
Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99
1 Cor. 12:27-13:13, Luke 9:28-36
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am
40 Days for Life sign up | | <u>Holy Communion,</u> 9:30 am and 11:00 am,
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:22-35
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am |