



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

Even though I am writing this before either event took place I am sure that both the photo directory shoot and the volunteer appreciation dinner were huge successes. In the event that I am wrong about this I'll let you know next month.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Our annual parish meeting will take place on Sunday, February 4, after the 11:00 service. Most of you know the format of our meetings except for the fact that this year we will eliminate most of the verbal reports and submit them to you in writing. My presentation to you and the Treasurer's annual report with the proposed budget for 2007 will be presented to you in person. Part of this meeting includes the election of new Vestry members for a three year term.

I have asked Mark Rambin to stay on as Senior Warden and he needs to be on the Vestry to maintain this office. Mary Ogden has indicated her willingness to serve another term and Jim Crandell has accepted an invitation to serve on the governing board of our parish. Nominees will also be taken from the floor. If you would like to serve or if you can convince someone else to take on this

responsibility, he or she may be nominated at that time. In order to vote at this meeting you must be a member of the parish, at least 18 years of age and have been a pledging member of the parish in 2006. Kay Francis is leaving the Vestry after several years of service. She has served our parish well in this capacity as well as others and we are grateful for her contribution. We hope that most of you will be able to attend.

Wednesday, February 21, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. As usual we will have Holy Communion with the distribution of ashes at 12 noon and Stations of the Cross with the distribution of ashes at 7:00 pm. (We will continue to have Stations on Wednesdays during Lent). The word Lent comes from a Latin word meaning to slow down. It is a time of preparation for the celebration of the Lord's resurrection, of course. But this period of slowing down enables us to get our house in order, so to speak. It is a time of coming closer to God through prayer, fasting and acts of charity. The Gospel for Ash Wednesday in Matthew, chapter 6, gives us an indication of how we are to do these things. It takes for granted that we do them. Fasting, in particular, is a very neglected practice these days (not my

Favorite thing either). If you look at the Ordo Calendar that you just purchased you will notice that fasting plays a prominent role in our observation of Lent. Many misunderstand the role and nature of fasting and therefore dismiss it as too difficult. It is not necessary to stop eating. The fathers of the church preached moderation in these things so that they would be done and not neglected. Fasting says to us that there are many things more important than what we eat or drink or how we indulge ourselves in so many different ways. If we decide to abstain from something, it should be to remind us that focusing on God is primary. To skip a meal or to do without something that is part of our regular routine reminds us of our creaturehood and that it is God who provides for all our needs. Please consider seriously this admonition to fast during this penitential season. But don't forget the prayers and the acts of charity. Self discipline is best exercised in our giving to others, especially those in need.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Classes for the St. Francis children began on January 14, after a short break for Christmas. Thanks to Steve McCown and Bill Ducker for working with the teenage class, Claire Ducker for working with the elementary class, and Julie Rambin for leading the youngest class in January.

The Sunday School Program has a new outreach project. For the past couple of years, a small group has periodically visited a nursing to sing, read the Bible, and

to pray with the residents. This fall, the teenagers decided that a change was needed, so after a bit of discussion, the idea of adopting a soldier was proposed. After checking with a variety of people, including current military chaplains, it was suggested I tap into an organization that provides soldier's names to be adopted.

My thanks goes to Sheri Brummett for the lead on Support A Soldier based out of Fort Hood. I signed up asking for 2 soldiers to "adopt". We are asked to send a card, letters, and care packages at least every other month to our adopted Soldiers. This will begin by the beginning of February. I am sure that more news will be coming soon
-Amy Crandell

As the days lengthen, we become aware of the renewal that is occurring in nature. New Life is springing up everywhere. As we look toward Easter, we are reminded that before he was resurrected, our Lord had to die. Even so we must die unto ourselves before we can experience a new birth in Christ. When we "Survey that Wondrous Cross", we know that all those things that we hold so dear on this earth must eventually be sacrificed if we are to dwell forever in your Kingdom.

Help us to carry our cross, even as Jesus bore his. For it is in dying that we shall find eternal life. Guide us through this spiritual pilgrimage as we join with each other in that search for True Life. May the light of your presence shine on our pathway. We would also breathe a prayer for those who need your tender hand. Many are suffering pain, sickness, anxieties, and grief. Carry us all safely home in your warm bosom, Gentle Shepherd. Both now and at the last, let us dwell with you forever. Amen.

Copyright © Jay D Weaver - March 20, 1997

“Almighty God,
 and You, my Lord Jesus Christ,
 I pray You to enlighten me
 and to dispel the darkness of my spirit;
 Give me a faith that is without limit,
 a hope that is ever unfailing,
 and a love that is universal.
 Grant, O my God,
 that I may really know You
 and that I may be guided in all
 things according to Your will.”

St. Francis of Assisi



**MOTHERS’
 PRAYER GROUP**

All mothers and grandmothers of the church are invited to attend the mothers’ prayer group, held in the Parish Hall. The group spends an hour on the second Monday of every month at 11 a.m. praying for their families. For more information, call Kay Francis at (512) 868-1092.

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



Birthdays

- 2 Erin Darling
- 4 John Gaitan
- 5 Patricia Burnette
- 7 Burt Pigg
- 9 Kyle Read
- 11 Elizabeth Elliott
- 12 Mike Ready
- 18 Liz Stewart
- 24 Callie Burnette
- 27 Fred Savage
 Gary Francis

Anniversaries

- 14 John and Wanda Stults
- 17 Jay and Sheri Brummett
- 19 Tim and Elaine Williams
- 20 Warren and Liz Stewart



Associate Rector: The Reverend John Stults
Organist: Sylvia Kelley
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 Erika 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

FEBRUARY

2007

2	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m. Games Night, 6:00-8:30 p.m.	16	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.
4	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., <u>Morning Prayer and Holy Communion</u> , 11:00 a.m., Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-17, (1 Cor. 14:12b-20), Luke 4:21-32 <i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>	18	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, 1 Cor. 12:27-13:13, Luke 9:18-36 <i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>
9	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.	21	Ash Wednesday <u>Holy Communion and Distribution of Ashes</u> , 12:00 p.m. Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 103:8-14, 2 Cor.5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. <u>Stations of the Cross and Distribution of Ashes</u> , 7:00 p.m.
11	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., Judges 6:11-24a, Psalm 85, 1 Cor. 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11 <i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>	23	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.
12	Mother's Prayer Group, 11 a.m. Vestry Meeting, 5:30 p.m.	25	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91, Romans 10:5-13, Luke 4:1-13. <i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>
		28	<u>Stations of the Cross</u> , 7:00 p.m.