

The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

Musings

By the time you read this the bishops of the Episcopal Church will have met and probably delivered some sort of answer to the Primates of the Anglican Communion regarding the Primates' insistence that TEC abandon their practice of consecrating and perhaps even ordaining openly homosexual clergy. What this will mean in practice is anyone's guess. If they hold true to form they will issue some meaningless statement that is nearly impossible to decipher and go about their merry way. I see little or no possibility that they will see the error of their ways and "repent" as they are being asked to do.

While all this is going on, the Primates themselves are attempting to make inroads into the U. S. by establishing churches with their own bishops, ostensibly to take the place of an apostate TEC. There are various affiliations and federations being formed among any number of Anglican bodies that seem to have little in common other than they are not TEC. Some ordain women, some do not. Many worship in a manner that would be totally foreign to our style of worship. There isn't necessarily anything wrong with a different style of worship. But much of it might not even be recognized as Anglican. It is hard to imagine that God is pleased with all that is happening in His church (it still is His, you know). I would simply reiterate my constant plea for prayers for the whole state of Christ's church, for its leaders, for all the faithful, that the one constant for us can be that we serve one Lord, according to His divinely revealed word.

We can differ on many things. But if we abandon His word we cannot even claim to be Christians, let alone Anglican Christians. Ask God to show the way to those who have lost their way. We criticize the stray sheep enough. Can't we pray for their restoration? It is easy to take shots at those who have gone astray, to ridicule and repudiate them. Correct them in love and then hand them over to the Lord so that He may deal with them. Who knows, maybe the lost can find their way back. It is our job to pray for them. It belongs to the Lord how to deal with them.

After many years as our parish organist, Sylvia Kelley has decided to retire from that position. Sylvia has been with St. Francis since the beginning, even before I came on board. She has been there nearly every Sunday for the past seventeen or so years and has made an invaluable contribution to the life and the liturgy of this parish. We are currently searching for an organist to take Sylvia's place at the keyboard on Sunday. Please pray that the Lord will send us the right person to follow in very large footsteps. And to Sylvia, a really big thank you for your years of dedication to St. Francis.

This is a parish newsletter, at least that's what I was told when we started this back in 1995. I would really like to encourage other than the usual suspects to contribute to this newsletter, if not on a regular basis, at least occasionally. What you should submit is something that would be of interest to at least some members of the parish. You should send your submission to Tricia Denslow at the email address in this newsletter by the 20th of the month.

Surely there are other people in the parish besides Amy and me who have something to say.

There is still time to join the Adult Education seminar on Tuesday evening. If you haven't come yet, or haven't even gotten Dallas Willard's The Divine Conspiracy, it's not too late.



Classes began September 9 with great enthusiasm on everyone's part -- teachers and students both. We have about 12 children from age 3 to 17 attending Sunday school classes at St. Francis. We always welcome new or returning children!

The youth in grades 6-12 meet with Steve McCown in the meeting room to discuss the lessons set for the Sunday service: Old Testament, Psalm, New Testament, and Gospel lessons are read and discussed with the ultimate goal of applying the lesson learned to everyday life. Steve will pass the torch to Mike Ready on October 28.

The younger children are divided into two groups by age. The children in kindergarten and below meet in the nursery with Susan Rambin and Elaine Williams, while the older elementary children meet in the adjacent room with Melissa Elliott and me.

These four teachers along with Claire Ducker (who will be a substitute teacher) attended a Godly Play workshop at the end of August. At subsequent meetings to determine how to best teach our children, we decided that most of what we learned shouldn't be applied at St. Francis. Our Sunday school program can't really be described as Godly Play, especially as listed in the last newsletter.

We decided to meet once a month to review the upcoming Biblical lessons and determine what the children should learn from how the story is told and from the questions and discussion held after the story. The story is told by manipulating simple figures made of wood or laminated figures and felt. (Thanks to Ben Ellis for cutting the figures out of wood.) The questions range from simple to more complex, albeit leading questions to engage the children as well as convey the points of the Biblical story. The younger children will have fewer questions, while the older children will have a longer story and discussion questions. The children generally choose their own materials to create a response to the story. Each lesson ends with prayers and a Bible reading, and, of course, a snack.

The lessons for October include: Noah and the ark from Genesis 6:9-9:29, Abram and Sarai from the 12th and 13th chapters of Genesis, the Exodus led by Moses from the book of Exodus, and the 10 Commandments from Exodus.

Thanks to the adults willing to work with our children and the parents willing to bring their children to Sunday school -- both are essential for our program.

Please continue to pray for our Sunday school program. Prayers are being answered, but more are always needed.

Plans are in the works to participate once again with Operation Christmas Child. Expect a letter listing what we are collecting by the middle of October. Donated items can be brought to the meeting room by November 18. We will assemble boxes during the Sunday school hour and deliver the boxes to the collection site that afternoon. Each year, we continue to be surprised and delighted by the generosity of the St. Francis members.

Amy Crandell
Children's Christian Education Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday evening services that have been held at 5:30pm will be held at 6:00 pm starting in October so that more may attend after the end of their work week. This is a great way to kick off the weekend and all are welcome. Again, the first of the 6:00pm services will begin on Friday, October 5th.

Laura's new address:
Laura Hitt c/o Lovegroves
12 Kill Abbey
Blackrock
County Dublin
Republic of Ireland



WOMEN OF ST. FRANCIS /The Daughters of Mary and Martha

"A New Name"

"A New Spirit"

The Women of St. Francis Church met for their bi-annual meeting on Saturday, September 8th, at 10:30 a.m. A motion was submitted, seconded, and unanimously approved to create a new name for our organization.

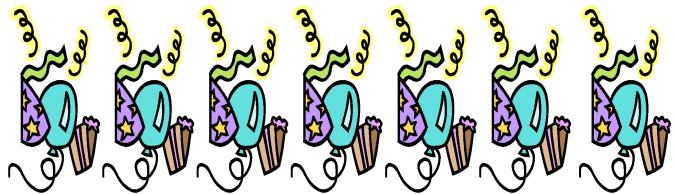
"The Daughters of Mary and Martha" was chosen as a symbol of the spirit, commitment and vitality of our parish work.

Please join us and attend our Spring meeting scheduled for March 2008.

Rector: The Reverend Len Giacalone

Senior Warden: Mark Rambin

Junior Warden: Keith Harrell

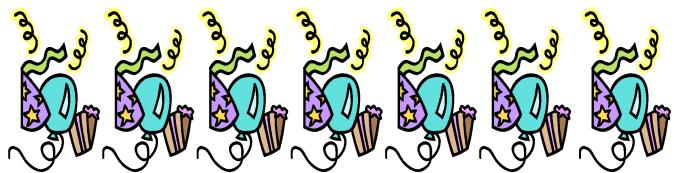


Birthdays

- 3 Byron Elliott
- 5 Kevin Burnette
- 8 Elinor Doty
- 10 Kay Francis
- 13 Gayle Harrell
- 15 Andrew Brummett
- 18 Merry Nell Drummond
- 23 Nita Reading
- 25 Carole Martin
- 26 Luke Garrison
- 27 Suzan Stratton
- 30 Jan Burrow

Anniversaries

- 3 Len & Nancy Giacalone
Chris & Tricia Denslow
- 6 Bill & Nita Reading



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 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 Episcopal Church

1408 West 9th Street
Austin, Texas 78703

OCTOBER

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| 2 | <i>Adult Education</i> , 7pm Parish Hall | 19 | <i>Evening Prayer</i> , 6:00 pm Church |
| 5 | <i>Evening Prayer</i> , 6:00 pm Church
<i>Game Night</i> , 6:30 pm Parish Hall | 21 | <i>Holy Communion</i> , 9:30 a.m., and
11:00 a.m., Genesis 32:3-8, 22-30
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8a
<i>Children's Sunday School</i> 9:30 am
Parish Hall |
| 7 | <i>Holy Communion</i> , 9:30 a.m., <u>Morning Prayer and Holy Communion</u> ,
11:00 a.m., (Habakkuk 1:1-6,12-13;2:1-4)
Psalm 37:3-10
2 Timothy 1:6-14
Luke 17:5-10
<i>Children's Sunday School</i> 9:30 am
Parish Hall | 23 | <i>Adult Education</i> , 7pm Parish Hall |
| 8 | <i>Vestry Meeting</i> , 5:30 pm, Parish Hall. | 26 | <i>Evening Prayer</i> , 6:00 pm Church |
| 9 | <i>Adult Education</i> , 7pm Parish Hall | 28 | <i>Holy Communion</i> , 9:30 a.m., and
11:00 a.m., Deuteronomy 32:1-4
Psalm 119:89-96
Ephesians 2:13-22
John 15:17-27
<i>Children's Sunday School</i> 9:30 am
Parish Hall |
| 12 | <i>Evening Prayer</i> , 6:00 pm Church | 26 | <i>Evening Prayer</i> , 5:30 p.m. |
| 14 | <i>Holy Communion</i> , 9:30 a.m., and
11:00 a.m., Ruth 1:1-19a
Psalm 113
2 Timothy 2:3-15
Luke 17:11-19
<i>Children's Sunday School</i> 9:30 am
Parish Hall | 30 | <u><i>Adult Education</i>, 7pm Parish Hall</u> |
| 16 | <u><i>Adult Education</i>, 7pm Parish Hall</u> | | |