



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

While there's no indication that the summer is ending weather-wise, September is here and that's when things start to gear up again at St. Francis. I hope that each of you had a wonderful summer and that at least some of you had the opportunity to be someplace cooler for a little while.

JOURNEY TO TRANSFORMATION

The Lord frequently does things for us, in us and around us, often things of which we are unaware, to begin preparing us for something major He wants to accomplish. Beginning mid way through the Easter season I began preaching a series of sermons about the power of the Holy Spirit and how necessary it is for us to operate in the church today. In mid July, Nancy and I were able to participate in an introduction to a process called Journey to Transformation. Over the last several years George Otis, Jr. and his team, The Sentinel Group, have chronicled the work that God is doing in communities all over the world. What God is doing is truly transforming these communities through prayer and fasting, teaching His people to cry out to Him, to invite Him into their lives and their communities so that God may make them into people after His own heart. In the last several years God has done His transforming work in dozens of communities all over the world.

Back in 1999, Otis and his team researched what took place in four of these communities, one each in Africa, Central and South America, and in California. A video report was made of how God had displayed His power in response to the invitation of the people in these communities and the response to these reports was instantaneous and overwhelming. People wanted to see how God could be present in the lives of his people. Since then Otis has filmed numerous places around the world including one in Appalachia here in the United States that will be available later this year.

Why am I telling you this? When I spoke to you on Pentecost Sunday I mentioned that the power of God seems to be absent from His Church today. We seem to be operating on our own without God's miraculous power. I also said that on the day of Pentecost when the Spirit of God came in power, the disciples had already been waiting in prayer and repentance since the Lord had ascended into heaven. God's power is still available to all who desperately seek it. Perhaps the operative word is desperately. One of the hallmarks of all the communities where God has come in power is that they were all desperate. That is, they had run out of options. There was nothing else that they could do in the natural realm

From the Rector (continued):

that would make any difference in their lives. And so in desperation and repentance they cried out to God, sometimes for weeks, sometimes for months, acknowledging that God and God alone could fix what needed to be transformed in their lives. This is difficult to explain and so I want to show you what I am talking about. I mentioned in church one Sunday that there are several DVD's from The Sentinel Group that show what God has done in response to the invitation of his people all over the world. We will show them at St. Francis during September as soon as I can figure out how to do it in a large group setting. It is my desire that we become involved in this journey to transformation. But I must tell you that this is not something that just happens. It happens when God's people earnestly seek Him with all their hearts and minds and strength. I don't know if we have what it takes to begin this journey but I do know that the Lord would love it if we would try. There will be more information about time and place as we get closer. Begin to pray about this and seek the Lord for His will for you in this journey.

Potluck Luncheon combined with the Annual Ice Cream Social:

This month is unique in that it has a 5th Sunday in the month we usually have the Kevin McCommon Annual Ice Cream Social. Why not do both at once? Bring something to good to eat to share and enjoy the company of your St. Francis friends. Desserts should be ice cream with the appropriate toppings. Members of the St. Polycarp of Symrna's Men's Guild will contribute grilled meat.

Nursing Home Visit: A group of parishioners visit the Retirement and Nursing Center on Burnet Lane for an hour of

prayer, songs and Bible readings. Plan to join us for these events beginning at 3:30 pm on Sunday, August 30.

Choir news: The choir has begun rehearsing after a couple of months off for vacations. We are hoping to sing at the 11 am service every 2-3 weeks. We would love to have new members or even occasional members. Practice is held after the coffee hour in the church.

Sunday School for children and youth Christian Education classes for children and youth will begin Sept 13 at 9:30 am in the Parish House. We will begin the year with two classes: one for youth in grades 6-12 and another for children in grades 5 and below, plus a nursery for the very youngest children. I am excited about plans for the youth class. Ellen Stults will lead the students in a Bible study on the book of James. Ellen has recently spent nearly a year at a Bible college in Germany and approached me with the idea of her leading the discussion with our youth a few months ago. I am impressed with her enthusiasm and look forward to working with her and Fr. Len as she develops her plans and leads the class.

The elementary class will begin the year with a study of some Old Testament Bible stories, with lessons from the Book of Common Prayer and a study of various saints worked in here and there. We will be following the Church School Series of the American Church Union. This curriculum includes lessons on the church seasons, saints, the BCP, along with the Bible stories. This link provides more information: <http://www.anglicanpck.org/resources/acu/churchschool.html>. Each class will include songs, prayers, and activities to help the children learn the lesson. Please include our Sunday school program in your prayers.

Anglicans for Life

The Saint Francis Chapter of Anglicans for Life will host a recruiting party for the *UT University Life Advocates* on Sunday, September 20 after the second service. If you want to meet these college students and encourage them in their volunteer work, please join us. If you want to contribute a side-dish, dessert, or drinks for the event, please contact Wanda Stults: 830-833-5632.

Altar Guild Meeting

There will be a meeting on September 12, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., of the St. Francis Anglican Church Altar Guild. This is a planning meeting for the fall, winter, and spring church season. All members are urged to attend. If you have any questions please call Shirley Ellis, Altar Guild Director at (512) 707-9848.

Daughters of St. Clare The Fall gathering of St. Francis Parish Women is scheduled for Sat, September 12, at 10:30am in the Church Parish Hall. A short business meeting and Devotional message followed by refreshments and fellowship are on the agenda, so please mark your calendars and plan to come. All women who attend St. Francis Church are automatically included as members of this organization. Come and learn about the on-going projects and concerns of our Parish and plans for outreach in our community.

Rector: The Reverend Len Giacolone

Senior Warden: Mark Rambin

Junior Warden:



Birthdays:

- 4 Judith Bernard
- 7 Eileen Cole
- 15 Katie Sandlin
- 19 Erin and Anna Brummett
- 20 Kimberly Norris
- 22 Brian Hoard
- 25 Sheri Brummett
- 28 Marion McIlhaney
Nathan Jensen

Anniversaries:

- 5 Mark and Susan Rambin
- 6 Steve & Angie McCown
- 9 Clif and Merry Nell Drummond



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

September

2009

-
- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | <i>Anglican Rosary, 12:00 noon</i> | 14 | <i>Vestry meeting</i> |
| 4 | <i>Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</i>
<i>Games night, 6:30pm</i> | 15 | <i>Anglican Rosary, 12:00 noon</i> |
| 6 | <u><i>Holy Communion, 9:30 am,</i></u>
<u><i>Morning Prayer and</i></u>
<u><i>Holy Communion, 11:00 am,</i></u>
Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:31-37
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am | 18 | <i>Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</i> |
| 7 | <i>Labor Day</i> | 20 | <u><i>Holy Communion, 9:30 am</i></u>
<i>and 11:00 am</i>
Wisdom 1:16-2:1, 12-22
Psalm 54
James 3:16-4:6
Mark 9:30-37
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am |
| 8 | <i>Anglican Rosary, 12:00 noon</i> | 21 | Mothers' and Grandmothers' Prayer
Group, 9:30am |
| 11 | <i>Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</i> | 22 | <i>Anglican Rosary, 12:00 noon</i> |
| 13 | <u><i>Holy Communion,</i></u>
<i>9:30 am and 11:00 am</i>
Isaiah 50:4-9
Psalm 116
James 2:1-5, 8-10, 14-18
Mark 8:27-38
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am | 25 | <i>Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</i> |
| | | 27 | <u><i>Holy Communion, 9:30 am</i></u>
<i>and 11:00 am</i>
Numbers 11:4-6,10-16, 24-29
Psalm 19
James 4:7-12
Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am |
| | | 29 | <i>Anglican Rosary, 12:00 noon</i> |