



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

Christmas 2009

Last year we started a “new tradition” at St. Francis having our Christmas Eve celebration at 8:00 pm instead of 10:30 pm. I believe that not only was attendance a little better but almost everyone was more awake. Therefore, this year our service of Lessons and Carols followed by Holy Communion will again be at 8:00 pm. Christmas morning we will have a Holy Communion service at 10:00 am. Naturally I would like all of you to attend at least one of these worship services. Many of you will be with family elsewhere but for those of you who remain, please try to worship the Lord on Christmas Eve or Christmas day.

Over the past few years we have had our Christmas decorating party on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. However, this year, since Christmas falls on a Friday, we are going to have our decorating party on Tuesday evening, December 22, starting at 7:00 pm. Those of you who have participated in this event in the past will remember that there is more partying than decorating involved so that hardly anyone is over-worked except for those who might eat too much. So please plan to attend this as well.

Your generosity was on display during October and November. Our October food drive netted 977 pounds of food for The Storehouse in Pflugerville which I understand was needed very badly. Food pantries all around town are being deluged with requests that are more and more difficult to fill. Thanks to all of you who brought food to St. Francis for the food drive. Special thanks to Nancy Giacolone for organizing it again and to Kyle Read and Keith Harrell for actually delivering the food.

Our Christmas Shoe Box drive was also a success. We were able to collect enough goodies to stuff 34 shoe boxes for shipment to needy children in another part of the world. Each year our numbers go up and I can only thank you for responding to these needs as you do. Thanks to Amy Crandell and all the children in our Sunday School for taking on this project each year.

Even though our annual pledge drive is officially over I am sure that there are a few of you who have not yet returned your pledge card. Recently, our December Vestry meeting has also been our budget

From the Rector (continued):

meeting for the Vestry to work on the budget for the new fiscal year. It is, of course, helpful to know what we will have to work with so your pledge is very important. I know that times are tough for some of you but please try to do your best. Giving sacrificially is a manifestation of faith.

Our Wednesday evening prayer for repentance and transformation continues every Wednesday at 7:00 pm. One offshoot of our personal and corporate prayer has been a small group of Sunday morning prayer walkers in downtown Austin. Prayer walking has become somewhat popular in recent years. The idea is to take the prayer to the places in most need of it. Downtown Austin is certainly one of those places. These prayer walkers meet at 7:00 am on Sunday morning and walk and pray for about an hour. I know it's a bit early but this is a worthwhile enterprise and if you're interested in joining them or just want to get more information please see Kim or David Norris. Please also consider joining us on Wednesday evening to pray.

Poinsettia Donations:

November 29th was the First Sunday in Advent. For the 12 days of Christmas the church will be beautifully decorated with poinsettias. If you wish to make a donation for the poinsettias as a remembrance or a memorial please put your donation in an envelope marked as a donation for poinsettias in the collection plate or give it to Nancy Critchfield-Jones or Angie McCown. Envelopes for this purpose are located on the table in the back of the church. Be sure you write the names of the persons to be remembered or memorialized on the envelope. Thanks, Shirley Ellis, Altar Guild Director

Children's and Youth Christian Education



Thank you to everyone who contributed to Operation Christmas Child! There were enough items and money donated for the children and youth to donate 34 boxes along with \$7 a box processing for this worthy cause. There are several aspects of this that I treasure: the delight I feel as I open up the shopping bags of items to arrange them on the table with plenty of different and creative items, the excitement of the children when packing the boxes, the look of the trunk of my car filled with boxes, the willingness of the hosts of the collection churches to help out, and the knowledge that each child receiving the box also receives a Bible story. I am thankful that St. Francis can pull off a successful food drive followed by another equally successful Christmas box drive.

During December, the younger class will study the prophecies of Jesus' birth, the story of John's birth along with the story of Jesus birth. This will culminate in the Christmas Pageant on Dec. 20 at 10:15 am in the parish house. The older class has completed their formal study of the book of James and will complete the year with a discussion of words in the book of James. Thanks to Ellen for ably leading the class this semester.

Both classes will take a break after Christmas. We will not meet on December 27 and January 3rd and will pick again on January 10.

Anglicans for Life

Anglicans for Life will not have a meeting in December. The next meeting will be on Sunday, January 17, when we will tour the Austin Pregnancy Resource Center's facility on Rio Grande.

Our goal is to help protect the lives of the unborn through work with young people, particularly college students, and by standing up for our beliefs in our everyday life. We invite everyone to join us.

Austin City Prayer Walk

Our city needs prayer. Walking through the downtown streets makes it obvious which exact prayers are needed. The Austin City Prayer Walk is from 7- 8 am each Sunday morning. We meet at 11th and Congress, on the Capitol side of the street and walk through a different area of downtown each week. We pray for many things, but center around repentance, asking for God's manifest presence that proclaims his power. Contact David or Kim Norris austincityprayerwalk@hotmail.com for more information. This is an absolutely incredible way to begin a Sunday morning.

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



Birthdays:

4	Michael Faught Elizabeth Douglas
5	Wanda Stults James Rambin
7	David Malish
9	Cassandra Jensen
10	Cindy Phillips
11	Rebecca Hoard
14	Mildred Farris
18	Karl David Stephan Angie McCown Elaine Williams
21	Tricia Denslow
28	Rev. John Stults
30	Suzanne Faught

Anniversaries:

21	Kyle and Leanne Read
22	Byron and Melissa Elliott
25	Victor and Jeni Carsrud
30	Arthur and Audrey Woodgate
31	Gary and Gayle Horn



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

December 2009

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| 1 | Anglican Rosary 12 noon | 18 | Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church |
| 2 | Transformation Prayer Meeting, 7:00 pm | 20 | <u>Holy Communion,</u> 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Micah 5:2-4 Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-56
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am |
| 4 | Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church
<i>Games night, 6:30pm</i> | 21 | Mother's and Grandmother's Prayer Group,
11:00 am |
| 6 | <u>Holy Communion,</u> 9:30 am,
<u>Morning Prayer and</u>
<u>Holy Communion,</u> 11:00 am,
Baruch 5:1-9 Psalm 126
Philippians 1:1-11 Luke 3:1-6
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am | 22 | Anglican Rosary 12 noon |
| 8 | Anglican Rosary 12 noon | 22 | Christmas Decorating Party, 7:00 pm |
| 9 | Transformation Prayer Meeting, 7:00 pm | 23 | Transformation Prayer Meeting, 7:00 pm |
| 11 | Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church | 24 | Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols with Holy
Communion, 8:00 pm |
| 13 | <u>Holy Communion,</u> 9:30 am and 11:00 am,
Zephaniah 3:14-20 Psalm 85
Philippians 4:4-9 Luke 3:7-18
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am | 25 | <u>Holy Communion,</u> 9:30 am and 11:00 am,
Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20 |
| 14 | Vestry Meeting, 5:30 pm. | 27 | <u>Holy Communion,</u> 9:30 am and 11:00 am,
Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 147
Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7 John 1:1-18 |
| 15 | Anglican Rosary 12 noon | 29 | Anglican Rosary 12 noon |
| 16 | Transformation Prayer Meeting, 7:00 pm | 30 | Transformation Prayer Meeting, 7:00 pm |