



## The St. Francis Bulletin

### **FROM THE RECTOR:**

#### Lent Begins

Wednesday, March 9, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Even though we have been in a Pre-Lenten season, Lent begins in earnest. On Ash Wednesday, there will be two services at St. Francis. Holy Communion will be celebrated at 12:00 noon with the distribution of ashes after the homily. We will pray the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm followed by the distribution of ashes. Also, after the Stations each Wednesday evening during Lent I will reflect on one of the seven penitential psalms. Our Transformation Prayer group will continue to meet after these liturgical activities and anyone who attends the Stations is certainly welcome to stay and pray with us for about an hour.

Lent is, of course, a time of preparation for the celebration of the Lord's resurrection. That preparation is a serious reflection on our part for the need of the Lord's passion, death and resurrection for us personally. It is a time to take serious stock in our personal relationship with God, our understanding of the need for forgiveness and redemption and the ongoing need to observe the commandment "Be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy (Lev. 19:2)". While there is still time, make the commitment to observe this Lent with a seriousness that you may not have had for a while. Sometime later in the Lenten season, there will be a penitential service with absolution. I will have to figure out a good day. More information on that later.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13. Set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on the 12th. You can't miss church on the first Sunday of Lent.

#### Lenten Reading

From time to time (very infrequently as a matter of fact) I recommend a book or two that I found to be interesting and helpful. I would like to offer you two titles that you might find helpful. The first is Praying The Names of God by Ann Spangler. This is one of those daily guides to prayer based on some of the many names we find for God in the Hebrew Scriptures. She has a companion book entitled Praying The Names of Jesus that I have not yet read so I cannot specifically recommend that one. In each chapter, Spangler gives you some background on the name, some thoughtful questions, some suggestions for prayer and multiple Scripture references. I have found it informative and helpful for my morning prayer. The second title is Heaven by Randy Alcorn. This might be subtitled "Everything You Wanted To Know About Heaven But Were Afraid To Ask." I guarantee you that there are few people on the planet who have thought this much about heaven and actually put it into print. It is quite repetitious in spots but don't be deterred. It is also quite uplifting, a quite enjoyable book to read. Much of his thoughts are based on the bible with a little speculation thrown in for good measure. But it will certainly give you something to think about. Let me offer you my usual disclaimer here. Just because I recommend a book does not mean that I necessarily agree with everything in the book, only that I believe you will find it interesting and helpful. I hope that you enjoy them.

## **Continued from the Rector:**

### 40 Days For Life

Our vigils at the abortion clinics in town begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through Palm Sunday. For those of you who signed up to participate, thank you for your faithfulness to this commitment.

## **Meeting for the Women of the Church**

Saturday, April 9, at 10am has been scheduled for the spring meeting of the Women of the Church. All women of St. Francis Anglican Church are cordially invited to attend and learn about the many important concerns and projects of our church life.

A Devotional message, and coffee time fellowship add to this inspirational meeting.

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP**

We are commanded by God to, "pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests never getting tired of staying awake to pray for all" (Ephesians 6:18).

The St. Francis Intercessory prayer group is ready and willing to pray for those who have any type of need. We have seen various healings, both spiritual and physical, occur. God does empower His people through intercessory prayer to help others conquer and overcome the struggles in life and to find new life in Him.

If you would like to be a part of this vital prayer ministry please contact Fr. Len or Nancy Giacolone. At this time, we have only two men who are on our prayer team comprised of both men and women. Men, your prayers are needed. There are no meetings, no requirements other than you pray daily for your prayer list, and the rewards are out of this world.

## **Youth Christian Education News**

The elementary class begins the month of March classes with two New Testament stories involving Jesus' life and ends with lessons centering on the events of Holy Week. As the last week of Jesus' life is packed with stories vital to Christians, these lessons are spread out over the last four weeks of Lent.

The first two lessons in March are from John: Mary anointing the feet of Jesus to the chagrin of some of the disciples (John 12:1-8), Jesus Healing at the pool of Beth-zatha (John 5:1-8) and then onto events of the last week of Jesus' life: Jesus washing the feet of his disciples (John 13:1-20), and the last supper (Mark 14:12-16, 22-26).

As is customary, the children will make a mite box for Lent and discuss Lenten rules that they can follow.

The youth class will have completed their unit on the fathers of the church by the end of February with Mike Ready. Watch for the announcement of the next unit in the pew sheet.

The children who attend the afternoon service for Baraka decided they liked having Sunday school with the other children at 9:30. This involves re-arranging the transporting of the children from their home near Metric and 183 to St. Francis at 9:30 and back again. If all the children who could attend Sunday school came at once, the class will have 10 students -- quite a crowd for our little space. I may need to investigate other uses of the space in the parish house.

The confirmation class for youth continues to meet periodically during the 11:00 service with three of our youth preparing for eventual confirmation.

As always, I appeal for you to include the St. Francis Sunday school program in your prayers.

Amy Crandell

### Anglicans for Life

The regular meeting of our chapter of Anglicans for Life will be on Sunday, March 20th, after the 11:00 service in the parish hall.

Everyone is invited to join us as we look for new ways to support life.

### EASTER LILIES

The Pre Lenten season started February 20, 2011 and as the celebration of Easter will soon be here we think of family members and friends that are no longer with us but are not forgotten. We will be decorating our church with beautiful Easter Lilies and you can make a remembrance or memorial to your loved ones. Place your donation with the names of the people or occasion you wish to honor in an envelope and give to Angie McCown or Nancy Critchfield-Jones. Envelopes for this purpose are located on the table in the back of the church and may also be put in the collection plate. If you have any questions call Shirley Ellis at 707-9848.

### Pancake Dinner

There will be the traditional pancake dinner on Shrove Tuesday, March 8th in the Parish Hall. Pancakes and similar breakfast foods will be supplied. As per tradition, the St. Polycarp's Men's Guild will be cooking. Would all men of the parish who would like to participate RSVP to Victor Carsrud at [texchiro@gmail.com](mailto:texchiro@gmail.com), and arrive between 5:30 and 6 pm to help cook. Contributions such as pancake mix, orange juice, syrup, and bacon and/or sausage are greatly appreciated.

**Rector: The Reverend Len Giacolone**

**Senior Warden: Mark Rambin**

**Junior Warden: Keith Harrell**



### Birthdays

2	Mason Jensen
4	Andy Adkins
5	Bobbie Kemp
7	Heather Pangle
8	Laura Hitt O'Conner J. P. Wathen
12	Pam Stephan
15	Shirley Ellis Melissa Nelson Bernard
26	Jennifer Faught Melissa Elliott Joe Gardner
29	Laura Elliott David Sikes
30	Victor Carsrud

### Anniversary

1	Larry and Eileen Cole
14	G.W. and Carole Martin
19	Miller and Elizabeth Hicks
21	Bill and Susan LaRoux



**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](mailto: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

## MARCH 2011

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|----|---|----|--|
| 1  | Anglican Rosary 12 noon.<br>Project Life, 7:00 pm   | 14 | Vestry Meeting, 5:30 pm  |
| 2  | Transformation Prayer Group, 7:00 pm  | 15 | Anglican Rosemary, noon.<br>Project Life 7pm   |
| 3  | Evening Prayer, 6 pm Church   | 16 | Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm<br>Transformation Prayer, 7pm  |
| 4  | Games Night, 6:30pm   | 17 | Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church   |
| 5  | Austin City Prayer Walk, 9am  | 20 | <b><u>Holy Communion</u></b> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am,<br>Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17, 25-3:7, Psalm 51<br>Romans 5:12-21, Matthew 4:1-11<br>Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am<br>Anglicans for Life |
| 6  | <b><u>Holy Communion</u></b> , 9:30 am,<br><b><u>Morning Prayer and</u></b><br><b><u>Holy Communion</u></b> , 11:00 am,<br>Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 99<br>Philippians 3:7-14, Matthew 17:1-9<br>Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am | 21 | Mothers' Prayer Group, 11am  |
| 8  | Shrove Tuesday, Pancake and Sausage Supper,<br>6:30 pm<br>Anglican Rosary 12 noon   | 22 | Anglican Rosary 12 noon<br>Project Life, 7:00 pm   |
| 9  | <b>ASH WEDNESDAY, <u>Holy Communion</u></b> 12:00 pm;<br>Stations of the Cross, 7:00 pm<br>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 103<br>2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21<br>Transformation Prayer Group, 7:00 pm                 | 23 | Transformational Prayer, 7pm<br>Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm  |
| 10 | Evening Prayer, 6pm Church<br><br><b><u>Holy Communion</u></b> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am,<br>Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17, 25-3:7, Psalm 51<br>Romans 5:12-21, Matthew 4:1-11<br>Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am                        | 24 | Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church   |
| 13 |   | 27 | <b><u>Holy Communion</u></b> , 9:30 am and 11:00 am,<br>Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95<br>Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42<br>Sunday School for Children, 9:30 am   |
|    |   | 29 | Anglican Rosary 12 noon  |
|    |   | 30 | Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm  |
|    |   | 31 | Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church   |