



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 3, is the annual National Day of Prayer. This has been going on in our country for over fifty years and we have been doing something at St. Francis to observe this day for several years. For the past few years we have used this opportunity to not only pray for our country but also for our troops in harms way all over the world. Since that situation remains and probably will for some time to come I suggest we do it again this year. Therefore, on the evening of May 3, at 7:00 pm, we will gather to celebrate the Holy Communion and pray for our country and especially the men and women in the armed forces of our country for their safety and their victory.

While I'm on the subject of prayer, just yesterday it was reported that the Supreme Court upheld the ban on partial birth abortion passed by the Congress in 2003 and signed into law by President Bush. This is a stunning victory for the pro-life movement in our country. I say stunning since it was far from certain that it would stand the test of judicial scrutiny. In fact, it didn't at the level of the district and appellate courts. This barbaric form of infanticide is opposed by the vast majority of Americans and even by some who are pro-abortion. However, the courts have always been quite cautious about upholding any restriction on a woman's right to kill her baby while still in the womb. It is true that this law was very carefully crafted. But it is also true that prayer played a big part in swaying the opinion of Justice Kennedy who, in the past, has been very reluctant to restrict Roe, even though he has maintained that Roe could

be limited. There have been minor victories in the past at the state level but this one is extremely important since it was a constitutional challenge. While parties on both sides are predicting that this is the start of something monumental we should not be complacent. It has taken thirty-four years for the Supreme Court to uphold a restriction on one procedure that is performed in rare cases. It is far too soon to think that this court is moving away from Roe, even if the country seems to be. Only prayer is going to move us forward on this and I would suggest that if you do not pray about this regularly, you might want to start. Evil isn't going away any time soon and Satan's minions, consciously or unconsciously, continue to go about his work.

Therefore, the followers of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ must not only be vigilant but militant in our prayer so that we continue to transform the hearts and minds of those who are misguided or simply in the clutches of evil. I don't really believe that the courts will overturn Roe until the outcry from the people of this country is so strong that they have no choice. You need to understand this if you already do not. There is no right to abortion in the constitution. It was manufactured by the Supreme Court in 1973. If there was such a right then the pro-abortion folks wouldn't be so worried about who is sitting on the court. As it is they are terrified that one more strict constructionist might be appointed to the Court and Roe might simply go away. That would not keep abortions from happening in our country. It would simply put the matter into the hands of state legislatures. In all of this prayer is the key. I would like our prayer groups in the church to be especially cognizant of this matter. But I also want all of you to

be involved in this. Prayer is the key to everything.

It has been a while since I have written anything to you on the goings on in the Anglican Communion. It is not that there has been nothing happening. It is, however, difficult to make sense out of much of it and I don't know whether or not I understand it completely. You probably have heard that some of the primates of the communion have given The Episcopal Church until the end of September to decide what they will do about the ultimatum to repent of the nonsense that has plagued TEC for the last few decades. Recently, the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church met at Camp Allen in the Diocese of Texas to discuss how they might respond. From the communications following the meeting it seems painfully clear that there will be no such repentance and that things will go on as usual in the church. I am not surprised about this in any way except for the alacrity with which the HOB got to this point. Those who seemingly wish to talk everything into the ground came to a remarkably speedy conclusion. It seems then (and I say seems since nothing is impossible with God) that the Episcopal Church in the United States and possibly the Anglican Church in Canada will go their separate way from the majority of the Anglican Communion. While this is sad in one way, I believe God is doing a great sifting in the churches. I do not think that He will tolerate any longer the churches who are not faithful I do not pretend to know what this may look like when it actually happens. But happen it must.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Through this new ministry, shawls knitted or crocheted by members, are given to recipients at times of illness, to the elderly, those in hospitals, etc. They begin and are given with prayer and love. Anyone who knits, crochets, or would like to learn and be a part of this ministry, please call Pheobe Hughes at 476-6216.

CHURCH RELOCATION

Beloved,

Many of you have probably been wondering what the Church Relocation Committee has been doing. The committee has been meeting regularly over the past thirteen months, charged by the vestry with the task of uncovering information that would help Saint Francis as a parish discern where it can best serve God.

The questionnaire that many of you graciously responded to was seriously considered and painstakingly tabulated. Your response was vital. It directed the committee that you believe Saint Francis has a mission and we must have adequate facilities to accomplish this, not just for our current membership, but for those whom God will send us. The committee has toured properties, explored the possibilities of building a new facility on land the church would purchase, and have sought accurate estimates for renovation.

The committee believes it is time to share this information with our parish. You are all cordially invited to a parish meeting which will be held at Saint Francis for this purpose. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 21st, from 7:00 to 8:00 in the evening. We hope to see all of you there.

Respectfully,
John C. Stults+
Chairman



SPRING MEETING

A meeting of 'The Women of St. Francis Church' is scheduled for Saturday, May 19th at 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. A brief business meeting will be followed by a Devotional and refreshments. All women of the Parish are encouraged to attend to participate in the work and service of our church. \$10.00, which will be given annually to further the work of the Women of St. Francis, will be due at this time.

-Leanne Read



GRADUATION LUNCHEON



The women of the church will honor this year's high school graduates, Erika Denslow and Julie Rambin, with a luncheon party. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 5th, at 11:30 a.m. For more information, call Leanne Read.

Birthdays

- 1 Bill Ducker
Amy Crandell
- 9 Tim Williams
- 11 Elizabeth Hicks
- 21 William Edward (Wes) Stults
- 23 Bob Ogden
- 26 C. J. Wright
- 29 Ben Brummett



GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Denslow Family will be celebrating Erika's high school graduation— with honors— from their Homeschool this spring. Erika received a full academic scholarship to Williams College. Please pray for her as she heads off to Massachusetts in the fall.

Congratulations to Julie Rambin who will be graduating from her Homeschool this Spring. Julie will be attending Texas A & M in College Station. We will all be praying for you.

Anniversaries

- 12 Gary and Kay Francis
- 18 Brian & Rebecca Hoard
Patrick and Ruth Doane
- 31 Keith and Gayle Harrell
Ben and Shirley Ellis



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

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

MAY

2007

3	National Day of Prayer <u>Holy Communion</u> , 7:00 p.m.	18	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.
4	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m. Game Night	20	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 68:1-20, Revelation 22:12-20, John 17:20-26
6	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., <u>Morn- ing Prayer and Holy Communion</u> , 11:00 a.m., (Acts 13:44-52), Psalm 145, Revelation 19:1, 4-9, John 13:31-35		<i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>
	<i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>	25	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.
11	Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.	27	<u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., Acts 2:1-11, Psalm 104:25-37, 1 Cor. 12:4-13, John 20:19-23
13	Mother's Day <u>Holy Communion</u> , 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., Acts 14:8-18, Psalm 67, Revelation 21:22-22:5, John 14:23-29		<i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>
	<i>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.</i>		
14	Grandmother's and Mother's Prayer group, 11:00 a.m. Vestry Meeting, 5:30 p.m.		