



The St. Francis Bulletin

FROM THE RECTOR:

And the Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us and we have seen his glory, the glory of an only Son coming from the Father full of grace and truth. One commentator calls John 1:14 the most significant and memorable words ever penned. Why? Because the event described there changed the course of human history forever. God became one of us in order that we might be saved from ourselves and live with him forever. The mind can scarcely comprehend the magnitude of what God has done in his attempt to make sure we have every opportunity to live the life we were meant to live, both here and in the life to come. For thousands of years the people of Israel waited for God to make good on his promise to send a Messiah. The Hebrew Scriptures are rife with announcements and predictions that heightened their hopes generation after generation. And he came, full of grace and truth. Full of the mystery and wonder of God, manifesting both the glory of God and frailty and vulnerability of human nature. Only God could save us. Only we should. So Jesus becomes God with us, Emmanuel. He remains forever both human and divine.

We always look toward Christmas, even as we begin Advent. This is one of those yearly events I fear with which we have become too familiar to realize its import. We are fighting in the public arena even to have people say Merry Christmas. We are offended at the secularization of this extraordinary event and yet we ourselves may not give it the recognition it deserves in our lives. Our liturgical celebrations of the Word becoming flesh are usually sparsely attended and many of the same folks who attend Christmas Eve service at 10:30 are back on Christmas morning at 10 am. I realize that many join family out of town and the evening service is

late. But gratitude is about all we have to give to God from us that He would not otherwise have. I encourage you to be a part of our celebrations this Christmas day.

Not surprisingly, a new movie is coming out at this Christmas season, targeting children, and trying to get them interested in something evil, ala Harry Potter. The Golden Compass is a motion picture based on the first book of a trilogy by Philip Pullman entitled HIS DARK MATERIALS. Pullman is an avowed atheist whose intent is to get children interested in the movie which is a very benign rendition of the first book. He wants our kids to read the books which are essentially dedicated to killing God. That's correct. Pullman himself admitted it in a 2003 interview. The movie has big name stars like Nicole Kidman and Kevin Bacon and probably a big budget with lots of advertising. Your kids will want to see it and after that read the books. I can only encourage you to stand fast against this latest assault on God. The devil is alive and well and people like Pullman are as dangerous as child predators on the street. Help to make this big project a big flop.

Since Christmas falls on a Tuesday this year we are once again planning on decorating the church building for the holydays after the 11:00 service on December 23, the 4th Sunday of Advent. Last year our young people helped a great deal to make the church beautiful for Christmas season. I'm sure they will want to help again. I think we will probably have a little end of Advent/church decorating party during and after the decorating project. Plan on attending and having some fun.

One final reminder. If you haven't submitted your Pledge Card for 2008, Please do so now. The Vestry, and especially our Treasurer, will need all this information in order to prepare next year's budget.



A big thank you is extended to everyone who contributed items or money for the Operation Christmas Child boxes. On November 18th, the Sunday school youth wrapped and assembled 23 boxes containing all sorts of items to be distributed around the world. Prior the boxes being distributed, a Bible passage in the language of the recipient will be added to the box. Since many of the donations were made anonymously, I am unable to thank everyone who contributed -- but you know who you are! I am always amazed at how well this works -- a request for donations is made and plenty of donations appear.

Christian Education classes continue through and including December 16th. Thanks to Mike Ready for working with the 7-12 graders, Melissa Elliott for working with the elementary aged children, and Susan Ramin and Elaine Williams for working with the youngest class. Classes will be on a two week break and start up again on January 6th. If you are interested in working with any of the classes this coming year, please contact me at 452-7231 or amy_crandell@hotmail.com. There is a need for teachers in all the classes.

On December 23rd, at 10:30 am, the children will present a simple Christmas Pageant. Any child who is interested in being in the pageant will need to meet at 9:30 am in the Parish House to rehearse and to get into costume. Visiting children are more than welcome to join us! We will need an audience, so come a little early to church and see the St. Francis 2007 Christmas Pageant!

Amy Crandell
Children's Christian Education Director

Thanksgiving Day Proclamation

November 19th, 2007

Beloved,

This year's Thanksgiving will be in the past by the time you read this, but no matter. It seems to be a particular curse of our lifestyle that we don't take the time to reflect, ponder, or meditate. Our lives are moving by us at great speed and we lose clarity in our busyness. We're on a journey wherein our speed blurs the detail of that journey. Therefore, I don't believe myself too remiss to offer you our first President's 1789 Thanksgiving Day Proclamation for your consideration in this edition of our newsletter. If you're like me, you were too busy in the activities of the day to reflect on it then. Enjoy. (John C. Stults+)

“WHEREAS it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favour; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me “to recommend to the people of the United States a DAY OF PUBLIC THANKSGIVING and PRAYER, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:”

NOW THEREFORE, I do recommend and assign THURSDAY, the TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF NOVEMBER next, to be devoted by the people of these states to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of the country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed;-- for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish Constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one lately instituted;-- for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge;—

and, in general, for all the great and various favours which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also, that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions;-- to enable us all, whether in publick or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us); and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He along knows to be best.

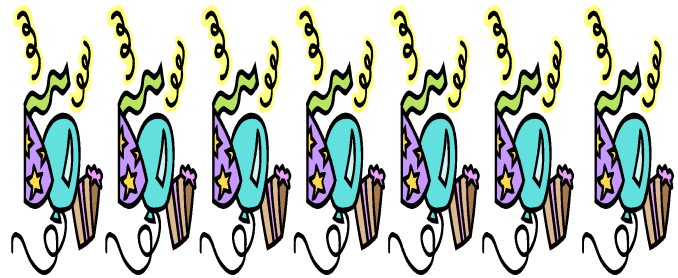
Given under my hand, at the City of New York, the third day of October, in the year of our Lord, One thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

(signed) G. Washington

Announcement:

Today is the First Sunday in Advent and in three short weeks the church will be decorated with poinsettias. If you wish to make a donation for the poinsettias as a remembrance or a memorial please give your donation to Angie McCown or Nancy Critchfield-Jones, or you may put your donation in an envelope marked as a donation for the poinsettias in the collection plate. Envelopes for this purpose are on the table beside the entrance to the church.

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



Birthdays

- 4 Michael Faught
Elizabeth Douglas
- 5 Wanda Stults
James Rambin
- 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: 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

DECEMBER

2007

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| <p>2 <u>Holy Communion</u>, 9:30 am, <u>Morning Prayer and Holy Communion</u>, 11:00 am, Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, (Romans 13:8-14), Matthew 24:37-44
<i>Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish Hall</i></p> <p>4 Adult Education, 7:00 pm Parish Hall</p> <p>7 Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church
Game Night, 6:30 pm</p> <p>9 <u>Holy Communion</u>, 9:30 am and 11:00 am, Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-8, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12
<i>Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish Hall</i></p> <p>10 Mother's and Grandmother's Prayer Group, 11:00 am
Vestry Meeting, 5:30 pm</p> <p>11 Adult Education, 7:00 pm Parish Hall</p> <p>14 Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</p> <p>16 <u>Holy Communion</u>, 9:30 am and 11:00 am, Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11
<i>Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am Parish Hall</i></p> | <p>18 Adult Education, 7:00 pm Parish Hall</p> <p>21 Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</p> <p>23 <u>Holy Communion</u>, 9:30 am and 11:00 am, Isaiah 7:10-17, Psalm 24, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25
Church Decorating after service</p> <p>24 Christmas Eve, Lessons and Carols with <i>Holy Communion</i>, 10:30 pm</p> <p>25 <u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u>
<u>Holy Communion</u>, 10:00 am, Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20</p> <p>28 Evening Prayer, 6:00 pm Church</p> <p>30 <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</p> |
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